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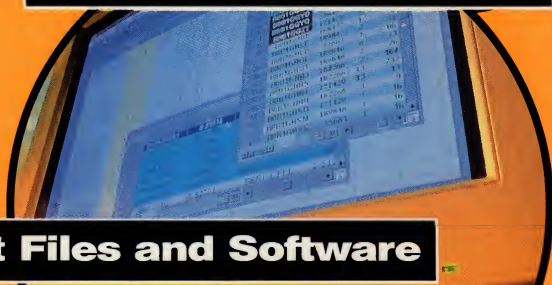
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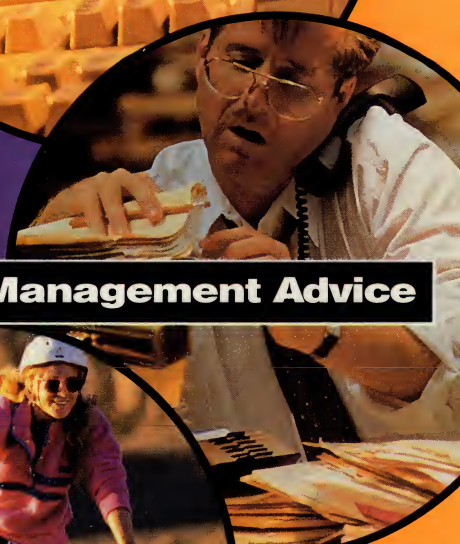
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Volume 10 Number 8
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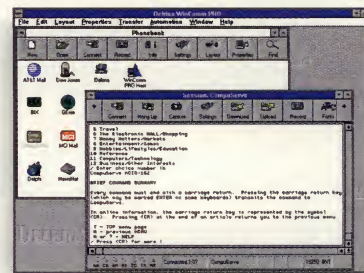
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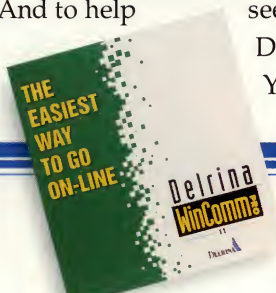
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December 1994



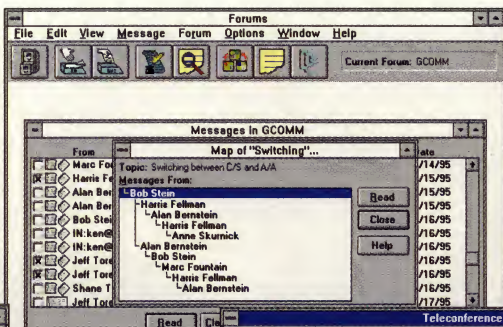
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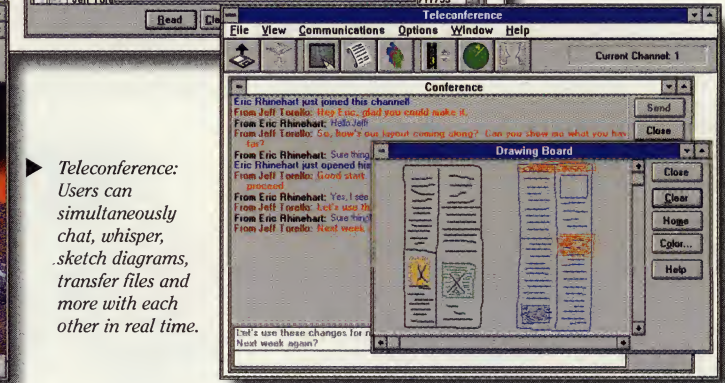
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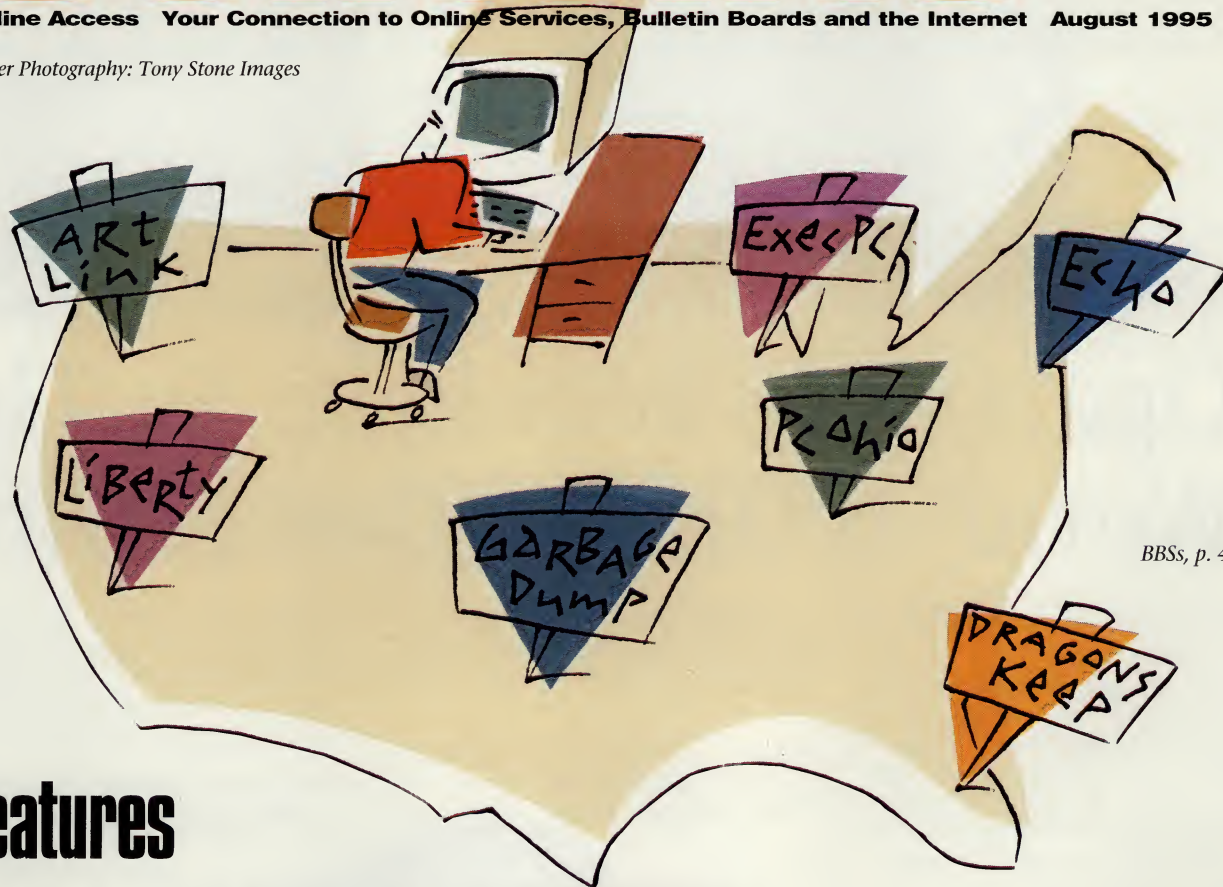
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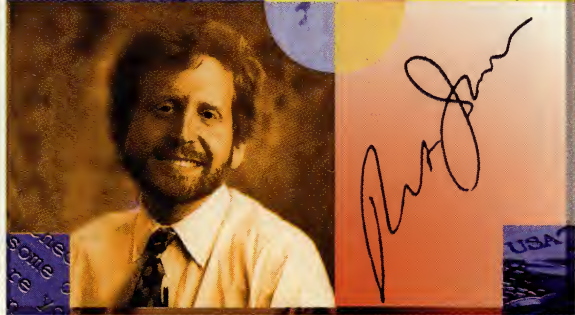
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Publisher's

Letter

Snake Oil on the Information Superhighway



I'm getting ready for the inevitable backlash that the explosive growth of the Internet is going to engender. You've seen the reports of growth. You can barely pick up a newspaper or magazine, listen to the radio or watch TV without reading or hearing something about the rapid expansion in online use as well as the latest developments on the Internet and the World Wide Web.

According to the Internet Society—a Reston, Virginia-based trade association—the number of networks worldwide that currently constitute the Internet (approximately 36,000) is growing by 160 percent each year. We Americans love this kind of market. It's the "wham! bam! kapow!" growth that gets everybody excited. On the other hand, we also love to debunk myths, spot fraud and deflate idle boasts. In this respect, the online market is no different from previous rapid-growth markets. There's altogether too much hype, misinformation and fascination with minutia.

Along with all this publicity and hype comes criticism. The perception that all this technology is useless is starting to surface, à la computer guru Clifford Stoll's new book *Silicon Snake Oil: Second Thoughts on the Information Highway* (Doubleday; ISBN 0385419937). Recently, when Stoll was interviewed in *The New York Times*, he pointed out all kinds of time-wasting, pointless and just plain stupid activities online and via the Internet.

Stoll's opinion gets at the heart of what we do here at **ONLINE ACCESS**. I regularly hear the question "What good is this stuff?" in a way that I just know the questioner isn't really interested in the answer. I've learned that I can't convince the skeptic to go online, so now I invariably agree with him or her. "You're right," I say, "you don't need to go online at all." And I leave it at that.

One thing though. Without stereotyping the skeptic, let me just describe the typical questioner as being like me, over the age of 25. You and I didn't go through high school with

our own personal Internet addresses, nor did we send e-mail to our friends or have easy access to online resources in college.

Take the case of my friend Peter's 14-year-old daughter, Julia, who attends eighth grade in a suburb of Chicago. Julia has her own free e-mail address through school and writes to her friends every day. When Julia enters college in four years, she will use online services and the Internet, still through an educational account. When she enters the workforce, there will be no question about whether she and her fellow graduates will use online services. Julia will have grown up with it, she won't be afraid of it and she will finally start paying some online bills (we, in the industry, pray for that day, as does her father).

That's the generational change going on here, and a good chunk of the current workforce is being bypassed along the way. According to Paul Saffo, director of the Institute for the Future, the growth of the Internet and online services is following the same pattern as that of other major technological breakthroughs like the telegraph, the electric light, the telephone, the copier and the fax machine. Although we assume that these inventions were readily accepted, the fact is that each of these revolutionary technologies took at least 30 years for widespread adoption. The pattern is the same for all—very slow growth in the beginning and middle stages (skepticism), followed by exponential growth that eventually results in near-total adoption.

So if you still think online can be a brainsuckingly empty experience, here's what I say to that: So what? Look at how many people own and watch television every day. At least online has the saving grace of real content, which I believe will save the day.

Publisher

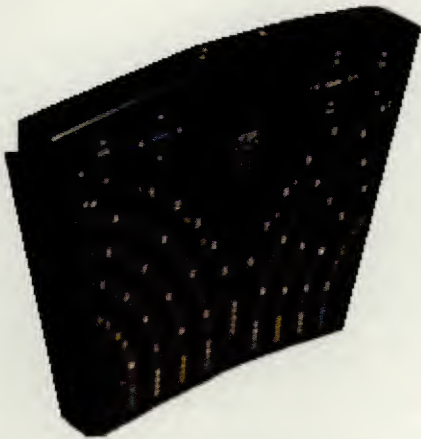
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Jordan".

Robert Jordan

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Letters

to the

Editor

New online users are speaking out, at least to **ONLINE ACCESS**. Many wrote last month to thank us for helping them better understand cyberspace and to request articles on certain topics. Some of you, however, feel that we could do a better job helping beginners navigate cyberspace.

Missing the Boat

ONLINE ACCESS and other computer sources are missing the boat by assuming that readers know more than they do. I would like to see a beginner's column that answers the basic and general questions of people who are just starting to go online and of those who have yet to take the plunge.

We all see the advertisements about making reservations to Europe or ordering flowers online. What readers don't see is information about the local bulletin board systems that offer chat and cater to people's hobbies and interests. No magazine takes on the simple task of advising the novice. An educated computer user will want to use technology, but if he is too hesitant to ask, he may well never dip his pen into the pot.

Harvey Davis
South Bend, IN

Books and Magazines Online

I was both happy and dismayed with the Editor's Choice section about books online (May 1995). Many good books were listed, but I think that the Online Book Initiative Project (ftp.std.com/cd/obi) should have been mentioned, too. It contains at least three screens of authors and would've been a good addition to your list.

D. Arnolds
rmie@ripco.com
Chicago, IL

Another AOL Fan

I am writing to you regarding Mark R. Richardson's letter about America Online that appeared in your June 1995 issue. I have had a better experience with AOL than with any other service. On AOL, I consistently connect at 9600

baud. The only reason that I can't connect faster (and at the same price) is because I don't have a faster modem.

I live in Los Angeles, but I suspect all online services have problems reaching remote parts of the country.

David Lyell
Luckyword@aol.com
Hollywood, CA

CompuServe Billing Tracker

In the Power User column "A CompuServe Toolbox" (June 1995), you indicated that a utility called CIS Billing Tracker, used to help CompuServe members organize their billing information, was available on ZiffNet. Well, it's not there. After using file finders on both CompuServe and ZiffNet, and, finally, posting a message on ZiffNet's help forum, I discovered it's in the PC Magazine UK Forum.

Howard R. Griffin
76341,576@com
puserve.com
Washington, D.C.

Users should stay away from that utility because it is no longer supported by its shareware author. Power User columnist Scott Arpajian would be happy to point out other CompuServe billing utilities to readers who e-mail him at 72241,1517@com-puserve.com.

Corrections and Clarifications

In the article "EDGAR: Charming the Beast" (June 1995), we erroneously implied that Moody's Investors Service is associated with Mead Data Corporation. Mead is now named Lexis-Nexis, and Moody's does not offer access to information from the service.

Also, a subscription to Moody's Company Data costs \$3,000 to \$6,000. Once you become a subscriber, you can access Moody's EDGAR data for \$995 per year.



In the article "Tips for Browsing the World Wide Web on Prodigy" (June 1995), we wrote that Prodigy offered 14.4 Kbps service in limited areas. Since the writing of that article, Prodigy has expanded its 14.4 Kbps service to 325 sites across the country.

We regret any confusion caused by these errors.



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How to Reach Us

*In your letter, please include your name, address and either a phone number or e-mail address where we can reach you. **ONLINE ACCESS** may publish any letter that it receives unless a letter is clearly marked **not for publication**.*

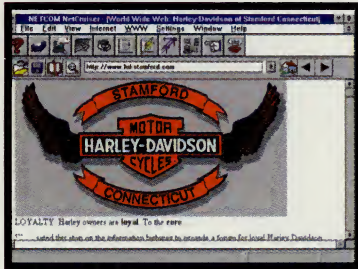
It is the magazine's policy to publish the name (not screen name) and city or e-mail address of each letter writer. Letters that do not include this information cannot be published. The magazine reserves the right to edit any letter it receives for clarity and length.

*Due to the volume of mail that we receive at **ONLINE ACCESS**, we regret that we cannot guarantee a personal response to every letter.*

New Products and Services

By Dana Humphrey

Web Sites



Check out the Harley-Davidson Web site for the ride of your life.

view the Harley-Davidson and Buell motorcycle lines, visit the parts counter, learn service tips, purchase clothing and collectibles and browse a calendar of upcoming Harley events. Visitors can even listen to the sounds of Harley cycles, download Harley video clips and submit pictures of themselves on their Harleys to win a Harley-Davidson T-shirt. The Harley-Davidson of Stamford Web site is parked at <http://www.hd-stamford.com>.

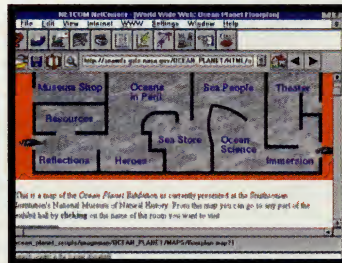
If you've found that vacations are too much of a drain on your pocketbook, check out **Hostelling International-American Youth Hostels (HI-AYH) Web site** (<http://gnn.com/gnn/bus/ayh/>). This site provides information about hundreds of HI-AYH hostels, which are inexpensive, dormitory-style rooms with self-service kitchens and dining areas located in cities, parks and other historic areas in the United States and abroad. HI-AYH is accessible on the Internet via O'Reilly & Associates' Global Network Navigator (GNN). Internet users can order HI-AYH membership cards and international and North American hostel directories, as well as request free information about bicycling, hiking and backpacking.

Sit back and enjoy music, videos and interviews with musicians on **QuickTime On-Line**, a Web site that makes it possible for consumers to download and view QuickTime software-based sights and sounds. The site includes information about the hottest interactive music titles. In the future, it expects to feature excerpts from music videos from Warner Bros. Records artists, such as Tom Petty, REM and Van Halen. Other attractions on QuickTime On-Line will include *Addicted to Noise*, a music magazine that features live reports,

Break out the leather, fire up your engines and ride the Information Superhighway with Harley-Davidson. The **Harley-Davidson of Stamford Web site** provides

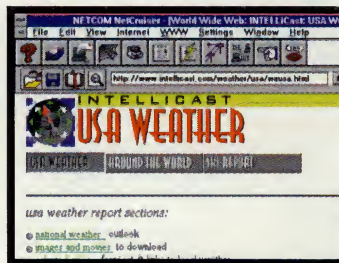
a forum for Harley-Davidson enthusiasts to

including digital photos from concerts and events around the world. In addition, users who want to create their own music videos will find helpful information and tools. The Web address for QuickTime On-Line is <http://quicktime.apple.com>.



Museum goers can explore any part of the Ocean Planet exhibit hall online.

where via its Web page, the Ocean Planet On-line (http://sea-wifs.gsfc.nasa.gov/ocean_planet.html). The site is organized around an interactive floor plan of the actual exhibition and includes text, graphics, audio and video.



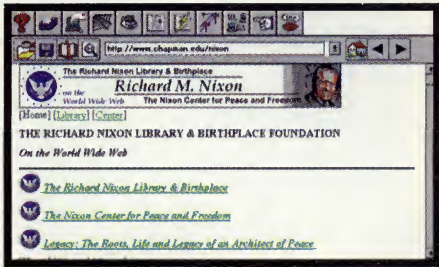
Get the most up-to-date weather forecast at the INTELLiCast site.

four-day prediction from meteorologists and view radar and satellite maps of current conditions. In addition, skiers can review ski conditions at areas across the country. INTELLiCast is located at <http://www.intellicast.com>.

Browse the **Richard Nixon Library** on the Web by heading to <http://www.chapman.edu/nixon>. This site gives users access to texts of recent foreign policy speeches by President Clinton, Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole and

Kids can view the spectacular Smithsonian Institute exhibition **Ocean Planet** without leaving home. The Ocean Planet, a celebration of the world's oceans and an examination of the environmental problems they now face, is available to Internet users every-

Make your new source for sophisticated weather information **INTELLiCast**, a Web site that gives users free access to multimedia weather reports utilizing audio, graphics and animation. Listen to recorded national and regional weather forecasts, get a

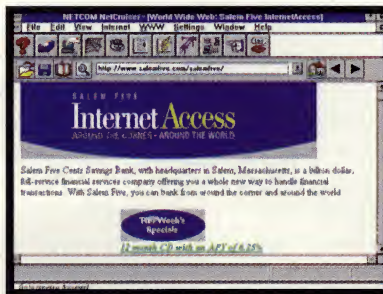


Visit the Richard Nixon Library on the Web.

others. In the future, the library will offer a tour of the galleries, gardens and birthplace of the 37th president.

Small businesses can now have some of the advantages of large corporations with **LEXIS-NEXIS Small Business Advisor**, an Internet service that offers access to more than 5,000 updated, daily articles from LEXIS-NEXIS. The service, which is available on the Web at <http://www.directory.net/lexis-nexis/>, is provided by LEXIS-NEXIS and Open Market, Inc., a software and services developer.

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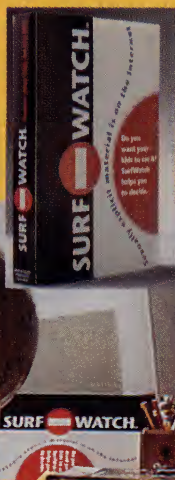
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Internet News



SurfWatch software censors Internet material for children.

If you're worried about what your children may stumble upon on the Internet, think about investing in SurfWatch Software, Inc.'s **SurfWatch 1.0**, a first-of-its-kind software for blocking

unwanted, sexually explicit material on the Internet. No material is actually removed from the Internet or the server; it is simply blocked at each computer where SurfWatch is installed.

SurfWatch screens

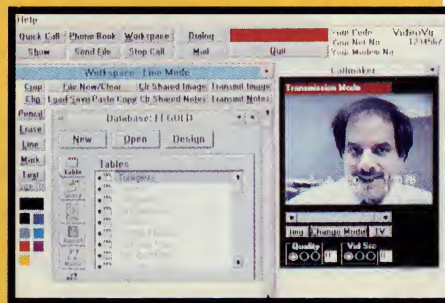
Internet newsgroups, the World Wide Web, ftp, gopher, chat and other services. SurfWatch offers a subscription service that automatically updates the blocked sites. Custom-site databases are also available that block according to specific preferences. The software, which is available in both Macintosh and Windows versions, is not for use with commercial online services, such as AOL, CompuServe or Prodigy. SurfWatch costs \$49.95 with a monthly subscription fee of \$5.95 for site updates. To order SurfWatch, call 415-948-9500, voice. The product is also sold via the Internet at <http://www.surfwatch.com>.

Conduct your video conferences over the Internet using **VideoVu**, a videoconference product from Future Communications Systems, Inc., for Internet,

modem-to-modem and network users. The \$75 product works with an ordinary Internet SLIP/PPP account or modem-to-modem. To videoconference with another Internet user, simply enter that person's IP address (instead of the modem number) to get a live video connection.

To receive video, you need only the software. Sending video requires a capture board, which is a device that plugs into both your PC and a port on the back of your VCR; a still or motion camera; a VCR; and a sound card. After each video frame is transmitted from the VCR to the PC, it is captured by VideoVu and sent to the receiving party. If you have your own Web site, use VideoVu to transmit live video as part of your page. System requirements include Windows 3.1 or higher, a 486 or higher computer and a 14.4 Kbps or higher modem.

VideoVu also features video e-mail, teletype chat and file transfer. For more information, call Future Communications Systems at 516-496-7121, voice.



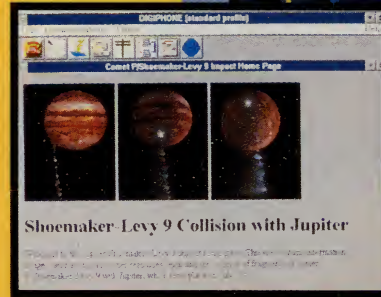
See and hear your business associates via the Internet using VideoVu.

Internet News

Speak to other Internet users almost anywhere in the world for the cost of a local Internet connection with the software product **DIGIPHONE**. Along with two-way voice conversations, this Internet phone system allows voice and data encryption, conference calling, call screening, voice messaging and an auto-dialing, personal Internet phone book.

DIGIPHONE also enables users to design their own interface and explore the Internet using a proprietary, Mosaic-like Windows interface made for easy access to graphics, text and audio files. The software, available in CD-ROM or diskette at computer retail stores, requires a 9600 bps modem, a 386 computer with 4MB of RAM, a multimedia sound card, a microphone, speakers and a local Internet connection. DIGIPHONE's suggested retail price is \$149.99.

With DIGIPHONE, you can chat with all of your e-mail pals for the cost of a local Internet connection.



New Services

GLOBAL VILLAGE COMMUNICATIONS

FREE!
100 hours of on-line access time!

On-Line Discovery
Your All-in-One Introduction to the Exciting World of On-Line Communication

On-Line Discovery offers a potpourri of online products.

Online beginners can get their feet wet in cyberspace with **On-Line Discovery**. This online communication site combines free-trial connection to five online services and the Internet, access to BBSs, and fax and data capabilities—all from one central location.

For individuals who like to keep abreast of the stock market, On-Line Discovery also comes with complimentary investment software and one month of free service from Reuters Money Network. The Reuters package offers software-based investment advice and an array of online financial information, news and data.

A variety of other online capabilities are also possible through On-Line Discovery. For example, cruise the Internet

using Netcom's NetCruiser software, dial into bulletin board services and send and receive faxes.

Global Village Communication's On-Line Discovery for Windows costs \$39.95. For more information, contact Global Village at 800-397-3088, voice.

EMPLAWYERNET online service will help you and your law firm recruit and fill positions more effectively. From the Legal Recruitment Network, this software provides access to an online legal job information system that aids both sides in the job hunt. Potential employers are able to search an extensive database containing a brief description of each candidate, as well as his or her actual resume, while job

seekers can sort through a constantly updated database of job opportunities to find a match. To simplify the search, employers can sort candidates by practice area, experience, geographic location, willingness to relocate and full-time or part-time status. Another area devoted to discussion groups allows individuals to talk about career development, job hunting and legal community developments.

The basic rate for candidate attorneys is \$20 a month or \$168 per year. Other rate plans are available. The online charge for EMPLAWYERNET is 40 cents per minute. For more information, call 800-270-2688, voice.



EMPLAWYERNET brings together the recruiters and the employment seekers of the legal profession.

New Products



U.S. Robotics' latest product combines modem, fax and answering machine for the home office user.

Trying to juggle a modem, a fax machine and an answering machine in your small office? U.S. Robotics has introduced the **Sportster Vi**, a product that integrates the capabilities of a high-speed modem, a fax machine and a digital answering machine into a single device. Sportster Vi products provide the full fax and data capabilities of a Sportster modem, in addition to personal voice mail with multiple mailboxes, remote voice message and fax retrieval capabilities, fax on demand, caller ID and caller discrimination.

The Sportster Vi 14.4 Kbps models are \$149 for the internal device and \$179 for the external device. Sportster Vi 28.8 Kbps models will ship in late 1995 and will cost \$339 for the internal device and \$359 for the external device. For more information, call U.S. Robotics at 800-DIALUSR, voice.

Experience BBSs in an exciting, new way with Durand Communication's **MindWire 1.0**—client/server software that can add spice to an online service. For end users, the MindWire client software is free. If you install the software and access a bulletin board running MindWire, you will be able to download images and sound files, spell check your electronic messages, view user photos during a chat session and more. Of course, traditional features, such as e-mail, file library and chat, are also included.



MindWire 1.0 gives BBSs a new look.

The client software is available on the MindWire Network (805-961-8702, modem). It is also available on Durand's Web page (<http://www.durand.com>) and on its ftp site (<ftp.durand.com>). For more information about MindWire, call 805-961-8700, voice.

Books



To help you get the full benefit of the wealth of data available on the Internet, the **Gale Guide to Internet Databases** provides users with information on over 2,000 databases. In non-technical terms, the *Gale Guide* explains how to access major government, academic, research, educational and pop-culture databases via gopher, telnet, ftp, e-mail

and URL addresses. Information offered in the listing may include search routines, geographic and time-span coverage, related mailing lists, update frequency and fees.

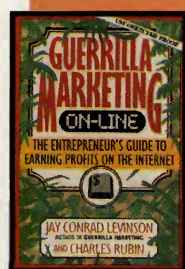
Five comprehensive indexes—Master, Subject, Host/Provider, White Pages and Alternative Formats—help users quickly find what they need. The 478-page *Gale Guide* also offers a Glossary of Internet Terms and a bibliography of the latest Internet reference books and related resources. The *Gale Guide to Internet Databases*, edited by Joanna Zakalik and published by Gale Research, is available for \$95 from Gale Research. Call 800-877-GALE, voice. ISBN 0-7876-0198-5

ways that you can outmaneuver the competition with superior marketing savvy and tactics. The book is packed with advice, ranging from "choose an audience and serve it" to "prepare electronic brochures describing your products or services and have them ready to send via e-mail when prospects ask for more information." The book concludes with chapters dedicated to sustaining your attack and leveraging your online advantage. The 291-page *Guerrilla Marketing On-Line* costs \$12.95 and is published by Houghton Mifflin Co. ISBN 0-395-72859-2



Discover a whole range of free and inexpensive goodies on CompuServe, from a rhyming dictionary to a loan analyzer, with **Free Stuff From CompuServe**, a 474-page book by Luanne O'Loughlin. The book covers 20 sections or topics, such as Books, Magazines and Literature; Business and

Law; Careers; Education; Health and Families; Kid Stuff; Science and Space; Sports Stuff; and Travel Delights. Each section is divided into Free Stuff and Cheap Stuff. All Free Stuff is found in CompuServe's Basic Services area, which means you can get these items with your basic monthly \$9.95 membership fee. The entries include descriptions, "go" words and file names. Published by Coriolis Group Books and distributed by IDG Books, *Free Stuff From CompuServe* costs \$19.99, U.S.; \$26.99, Canada. ISBN 1-883577-26-8 **OA**



Want some guidelines and strategies for attacking the online marketplace? In **Guerrilla Marketing On-Line**, authors Jay Conrad Levinson and Charles Rubin give readers just that. They discuss how, when and where small businesses should "attack" online. Even if your company doesn't have a lot of money or resources, the writers promise to show you

Telnet into the World's Biggest

Archie-smarchie! If you have Internet access and you're looking for software, now you can just telnet into the most extensive shareware file collection in existence.



Software Library.

On Exec-PC, the world's largest BBS since 1983.

We've got over *half a million files* online and ready to ftp or download, including an enormous adult collection. And more files are added every day. Pay one incredibly low membership fee and you can download to your heart's content. And if that's not a fantastic deal all by itself, consider this: when you telnet in, you have **FREE** local access! (If you're not cruisin' the Net, this is reason enough to hit the Highway.)

Take a **FREE TEST DRIVE**, even download games from Epic and Apogee – including the latest version of **DOOM** – at no obligation. Once you discover Exec-PC, you'll kiss the frustration of Archie goodbye.

Telnet to bbs.execpc.com
Visit our Web page at <http://www.execpc.com>
Non-Internet modem calls: 414-789-4360 v.32bis
For more information, or to sign up, call:
1-800-EXECPC-1



EXEC-PC Incorporated 2105 S. 170th Street, New Berlin, WI 53151 (414) 789-4200 fax (414) 789-1946

Online

By Dana Humphrey

Update



America Online

8619 Westwood Center Dr.
Vienna, VA 22182-2285
800-827-6364, voice

To better serve its members, America Online has opened a new call center in Jacksonville, Florida. AOL will employ 850 to 1,000 people in the area over the next two years.

New Features

Interact with your favorite funny-page characters during a year-long series of live cyberspace events called **Sunday Funnies LIVE**. Appearances by cartoonists and their characters will take place each Sunday evening at 8 p.m. EST in AOL's Centerstage auditorium. Past guests include Bil Keane and The Family Circus, Bill Griffith and Zippy the Pinhead, and Bruce Tinsley and Mallard Filmore. Check beneath your favorite strips in the comics section of your local Sunday newspaper to see who's appearing on AOL that night. (keyword: **comic strip**)

Keep abreast of critical developments in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer by accessing the **American Cancer Society Forum**. Part of the

Health ResponseAbility Systems' Better Health & Medical Forum emphasizes early detection of cancer as well as self-help and mutual support for families and individuals who are living with cancer. (keyword: **cancer**)

If you've always wanted to be a political pundit, frequent **Congressional Quarterly Online**, a congressional and state information service. You'll have access to the lead story from the latest issue of *The Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, which is read by most senators and members of Congress. You can also pull up the status of major legislation being debated in Congress to see how your representative is voting. Find election results, news stories and special reports. And if you have questions or comments for the reporters and editors of *The Congressional Quarterly*, take part in live, online auditorium discussions. (keyword: **cq**)

One-button access to a whole range of CD-ROMs is now available on America Online as a result of alliances between AOL and a number of CD-ROM publishers in the entertainment publishing, game and educational markets. AOL members can take advantage of the engaging video, audio and database capabilities. At the same time, members can continue to get the best of the online services—the sense of community, up-to-the-minute content and interactivity.

The new alliances include Broderbund Software, Hachette-Filipacchi Magazines, Compton's New-Media, Virgin Interactive/Entertainment, Novell, SoftKey (1995 *Time Almanac*), 2Market, Midisoft and MindQ Publishing, Inc.

Internet News

With the new AOL browser, members can surf the Web as easily as they search America Online. For instance, members who want to see the best sports-related content simply move to the Sports grouping, regardless of whether the content is stored on AOL itself or on Web servers. This integrated approach also allows subscribers to perform simultaneous Internet and AOL tasks. For example, users can chat and read mail while surfing Web sites.

AOL's Web browser also features TurboWeb, a technology compression that reportedly displays pictures and graphics up to three times faster than other browsers. Images are rendered in stages, so subscribers begin to view the graphics as soon as transmission begins. In addition, Web pages are captured and saved as they appear, allowing for quick and easy access to images with no delays in subsequent visits.

Final versions of both the Windows and Macintosh browsers were expected to be available sometime in June, and they are available to users at no extra cost. For more information, go to the Internet Connection area. (keyword: **internet**)



CompuServe, Inc.

5000 Arlington Centre Blvd.
P.O. Box 20212
Columbus, OH 43220
800-848-8199, voice

New Features and Software

If you have a thing for art and pictures, check out the **Photography and Fine Art Forums**. The new Photo Gallery Forum features the work of Photography Forum members in a unique electronic gallery of images. Meet online to discuss special

interests like landscape, wildlife, sports, special effects and everyday life photography. Both advanced amateurs and professionals head up each of these sections, so you'll feel at home no matter what your level of experience. A special People Photography section has five areas devoted to people images. Get the latest tips from experts who drop in regularly to offer advice on taking great pictures. The Photo Gallery Forum is part of CompuServe's extended services. (go **photogallery**)

The Fine Art Forum has a new section devoted to the **Florida Wildlife Art Expo Online**. Get images of the original paintings, limited edition prints and shots of wood, bronze and stone sculptures from over 100 American wildlife and Western artists. These graphics files show the work of artists who were featured in an exhibition in Orlando, Florida, in February. Stop by Library 5, Florida Wildlife, for images from the 1995 Expo that celebrated America's rich wildlife resources. The Fine Art Forum also includes images from the upcoming 1996 Expo as well as artists' subjects, conferences and more. To access the Fine Art Forum, go **fineart**.

Use your computer to plan your business trips and vacations at home. United Airlines offers reservation and ticketing services online (go **united**) as well as hotel and car rental bookings. **United Connection** has unique online features, such as Mileage Plus account information and a fare/flight planning service. United Connection also has Frequent Flier Miles, a Fare Shopper Service and Electronic Ticketing.

If you travel around CompuServe with Windows, make sure you can access the latest menu enhancements. Get NavCIS Version 1.62 for Windows. This top-notch autonavigator is available for downloading in the Dvorak Development Forum (go **dvorak**). And for nonautomated travel through CompuServe, get the latest version of WinCim or MacCim (go **cimsupport**). These latest CompuServe Information Manager programs allow you to access new Internet and forum features.

If you can't keep your eyes off the big screen, go online long enough to look at the **All-Movie Guide**. It has details on 50,000 movies, from silent films to the latest blockbusters.

Included in its searchable database are plot descriptions, running times, years of release, credits, cast, keywords and more. Search for movies by the

name of the actor or actress, movie title, rating, category of film (children's, documentary, feature or TV), name of producer or director and genre (comedy, adventure, silent thriller, mystery and western).

If you are a parent, use the All-Movie Guide to quickly find out if a film is suitable for your youngsters. To access the All-Movie Guide, which is part of CompuServe's basic services, go **allmovie**.

Voice e-mail is here. **BONZI Software's Voice E-Mail 1.0 for WinCIM** lets you send messages containing speech, music and sound effects to friends and business colleagues worldwide. The software uses digital audio and the latest in sound-compression technology. This new medium combines the richness and impact of digital audio with the speed and reach of electronic mail. You will gain a great performance boost by switching to Voice E-Mail. For instance, most computer users type an average of 20 to 30 words per minute, while most professional typists average 60 to 80 words per minute. Comparing those figures to human speech, which averages 200 to 250 words per minute comfortably, the increase in efficiency is dramatic. In addition, Voice E-Mail requires no editing, spelling or punctuation. Just record your thoughts as they enter your mind.

Digital audio can be used in many creative ways to add sound effects, echoes, reverberations and more to your messages. Mix speech with music, insert soundbytes and combine multiple sound files to play simultaneously.

Voice E-Mail 1.0 for WinCIM is available for downloading in the Voice Mail download area (go **voicemail**). It costs \$29.95. Also offered for no charge is a GIF screen shot of the program and a frequently asked questions file. This section is part of CompuServe's basic services. There is no connect-time charge, but communication surcharges still apply.

—Jack M. Germain



Prodigy

Prodigy Services Company
445 Hamilton Ave.
White Plains, NY 10601
800-PRODIGY, voice

Updates

After 10 years at the helm, **Prodigy President Ross Glatzer** has retired. His successor is **Edward A. Bennett**, a cable and media industry veteran.

Now you can find out if your friends are online with you. Jump **IM tutorial** to learn how to send instant messages to other members.

It's a plus feature, but if you love legal action, you might not mind the extra expense. Jump **court tv** to download transcripts of *Court TV*.

By the time you read this, Prodigy e-mail will have native Windows functionality. This means that the Windows version of the Prodigy software will look and act much more like a genuine Windows application. For example, the length of an e-mail message both sent and received will no longer be limited. You'll see scroll bars on the sides of messages, a new icon bar and sizable windows.

Mac users now have a new **Mail Manager** program with a mail gateway to the Internet. This offline mail manager is available for a one-time download charge of \$14.95. (jump **mail manager**)

Overview: Medical Features on Prodigy

Medical and health-related features on Prodigy are plentiful. Here are a few of these forums and areas:

*Jump **medical support bb** for topics from AIDS to weight loss. The BB also features a Medical Auditorium Chat every Wednesday evening at 9 p.m. EST.

*Jump **ccfa** for the **Crohn's & Colitis Forum** of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. You'll find an online mutual help network, a research library and grant information.

*For a selection of articles about health-related issues culled from news headlines, jump **health news**.

*An impressive number and variety of articles about health issues is also available by typing the jump phrase **health topics**. The six categories here include Wellness, Children, Brain & Behavior, Diseases, Exercise & Sports and Hot Topics.

***Keeping fit** is the jump phrase for a medical resource that offers six topic choices: How Fit Are You?; Fit Mind/Fit Body; Your Body: An Owner's Manual; Preventing Pain; Fit Kids; and Yoga for Fitness.

*Jump **women's health** to access **Women's Health Day**. From there you can reach the Women's Health Topic on the Health BB or you can view Prodigy polls, such as one that found that most women feel stress. There is also a unique phone list here featuring the phone numbers of support groups nationwide dealing with subjects ranging from abortion to working women. Finally, you can read articles online about important issues like the Women's Health Initiative—the largest study of women's health issues in history, which will cost \$625 million and take 15 years to complete.

For Kids

Nova is one of those features that says it's for kids, but adults secretly like it too. Nova makes science fun, and the best part is that when you finish reading a current feature, you can dip into the archives or the bibliography and keep on learning. One area called A Very Dairy Fair lets you choose what and how much you want to learn about dairy farming. Nova even asks your opinion about dairy farming methods.

Nova also features a column called Beyond Belief that describes the extraordinary behind the ordinary. The archives list topics about intuitive software robots called "softbots," myths and space, to name a few. (jump **nova**)

Freebies

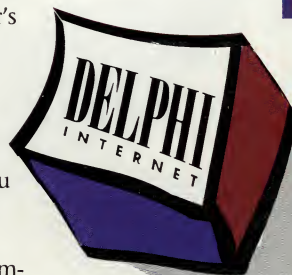
Jump **cbs** to view lots of photos and sound clips from the *Late Show with David Letterman's* stint in London. Dave now lives in this writer's computer saying, "I'll be driving on the left-hand side of the desk."

If you own a Packard Bell computer, jump **packard bell** for free utility and enhancement downloads, such as patches and drivers.

Only the two-hour trial period is free, but that is enough usage to find out if the massive database called **Homework Helper** can help your child. It

easily searches for whatever information is required to complete book reports and term papers. Because it's meant for all ages, Homework Helper is very simple to use. There is also a Homework Helper BB. (jump **homework helper**)

—Rita Laws



Delphi

*Delphi Internet Services Corp.
1030 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138
800-695-4005, voice*

In preparation for the launch of its new graphical online service later this year, Delphi has expanded into Manhattan, New York. By situating its headquarters there, the company hopes to tap into the creative talent and vast media resources of the area.

In addition, Delphi will open offices in New York City and the Boston area to accommodate the more than 750 new employees the company plans to hire over the coming months.

eWorld

*Apple Computer, Inc.
20525 Mariani Ave.
Cupertino, CA 95014
800-775-4556, voice*



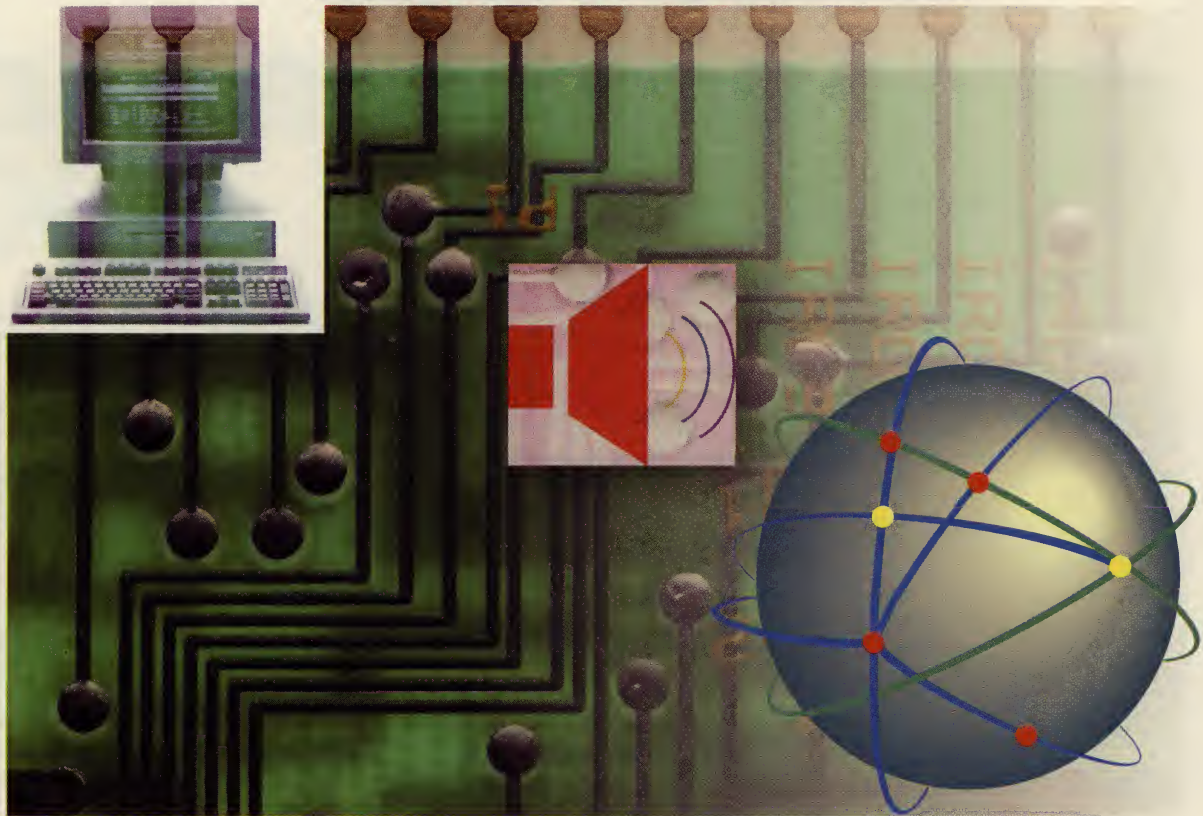
Listen up eWorld members! The service now has **Speak**, a technology that allows users to actually listen to conversations in a conference room by assigning different voices to conference members.

Along with Speak, check out some of the other capabilities available with eWorld's latest operating version. Subscribers can expect Web access, more multimedia capabilities and an electronic mail agent that allows users to automatically filter incoming mail. An auto-open feature allows you to open a specific eWorld area when logging on to the service.

Medical professionals interested in technology-based imaging solutions can stop by **Radiographic Imaging** for troubleshooting tips or to ask product and support questions. (shortcut: **radiographic**)

Web World

Multimedia Applications on the Internet



Chicago, IL • August 7-9, 1995

3 COMPREHENSIVE CONFERENCES

- **Living in the Web:** *Individual Perspectives*
- **Working with the Web:** *Inter/Intra Corporate Communications*
- **Weaving in Information Space:** *Developing Web Applications*

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*Enterprise Integration
Technologies*

Marc Andreessen,
co-creator of Mosaic
Netscape Communications

Dave Crocker
Brandenburg Consulting

Dale Dougherty
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Plus... The WEB WORLD Product Showcase Featuring real world demonstrations of the industry's leading products and solutions for all your Web technology needs.

HWBQX03

Radio HK Rides the RealAudio Wave

While many CD-ROM computer owners can use their computers as compact disc players, users can now turn on their Macs and PCs and tune in to a 24-hour radio station thanks to a new online, audio-on-demand service.

Radio HK, the Internet's first 24-hour radio station, broadcasts the music of independent rock bands, like the Barking Spiders from California, in an alternative radio format. Developed by Hajjar/Kaufman Advertising's New Media Lab, Radio HK started using new RealAudio technology in April, two months after the station went on the 'Net.

"It was so up-the-alley of what we were doing," says Norman Hajjar, president of Hajjar/Kaufman. "RealAudio took it [Radio HK] out of the experimental realm and into a mass media, which makes Radio HK more of a populist medium."

About 25,000 listeners from six continents, 40 countries and all 50 states tune in to Radio HK, Kaufman says. While several college radio stations transmit their signal via the 'Net, only Radio HK, National Public Radio, ABC News and Adam Curry's Metaverse use RealAudio.



Radio HK plays the hits loudly and clearly on the 'Net using RealAudio technology.

RealAudio, launched in April by Progressive Networks in Seattle, enables online users with multimedia computers and voice-grade telephone lines to browse, select and play back audio content on demand. In the past, it could take as long as 25 minutes to download files containing five minutes of audio.

Web site providers like HotWired and Hollywood Online are also implementing the RealAudio server, one of three applications, on their sites. Progressive Networks also introduced RealAudio Player for consumers and RealAudio Studio for content creators.

To receive Radio HK's signal on a PC, Hajjar recommends that you use a 486/33 SX computer (or better) with Microsoft Windows 3.1x, a sound card with a Windows sound device driver and a Winsock-compliant TCP/IP protocol stack.

Macintosh users can listen to Radio HK with MacTCP, System 7.0 or newer, Sound Manager 3.0 and a Mac with a 68020, 68030, 68040 or a PowerPC processor.

Radio HK can be accessed through the World Wide Web at <http://www.hkweb.com/radio>. RealAudio's URL is <http://www.realaudio.com>. You can use the sites to download a free copy of RealAudio Player, and then get set to ride the radio waves. —Heath Row

Shape Up Your PC and Ship It Out for Free



Mail Boxes Etc. packs a PC punch.

A computer breakdown can be more than a minor inconvenience for PC users. Doing battle with packaging materials and dishing over a lot of cash to send your PC back to the manufacturer is like adding salt to the wound. Mail Boxes Etc., a postal services company, is here to help. Just drop off your computer product at any of its 2,500 stores. Mail Boxes Etc. will pack warranted equipment, such as PCs and printers, from participating companies and ship it overnight at no cost. (Participating companies include Epson, Hewlett-Packard, Panasonic, Toshiba and Xerox.) When your product is fixed, either you can have it sent to you directly or it can be held at the store for pickup.

"Manufacturers know they will lose customers if they don't make it easier to send back their products for repair," explains account executive Philip Jacobs. "And Mail Boxes Etc. serves as a drop-off point."

If your product is not under warranty, you may have to pay for the service, depending on Mail Boxes Etc.'s deal with the particular manufacturing company. For more information, call Mail Boxes Etc. at 800-949-6660, voice, or 619-455-8800, voice. —Dana Humphrey

Industry Byte: Commercial Online Services

Online services accounted for the lion's share of transactions in the electronic marketplace in 1994, with 90 percent of the sales (\$324.9 million). Overall, revenue generated from electronic transactions of goods climbed to \$362 million in 1994, a 27 percent increase over 1993, according to SIMBA Information Inc.'s new study, "The Electronic Marketplace 1995: Strategies for Connecting Buyers & Sellers."

The Internet represented only 6 percent of transactions in the electronic marketplace in 1994. However, the SIMBA report predicts that the Internet will be the second-largest marketplace by the year 2000, with revenues nearing \$950 million. —DH

Million-Dollar Madness



Robert Ricketts dialed the lucky 10 millionth call to Exec-PC.

Better than one in a million, Robert Ricketts from Houston, Texas, was the 10 millionth caller to Exec-PC, the world's largest BBS. At the time of Ricketts' winning dial, the rate of calls was a feverish 9,000 per hour or 150 a minute.

About every five or six months, excitement and anticipation build at Wisconsin-based Exec-PC as the sysops and members prepare for the next millionth caller. Ricketts, along with other millionth-caller winners, receives \$1,000 worth of computer merchandise. The 10 callers immediately before and after the millionth caller win Exec-PC T-shirts.

In an attempt to be one of the lucky dialers, Exec-PC members dip into their bag of tricks, according to Greg Ryan, president of operations for Exec-PC.

"Now that we have telnet access available, people were able to get on quickly by performing multiple,

simultaneous sessions," Ryan explains. "They'd try to pull a fast one that way."

Others set up their systems for automatic scripts. Ricketts said he plotted a call-frequency curve to determine the approximate time he should place his next call. But he admits that no amount of calculating could put him on the mark. "Only the grace of God let me get it right on the dot," he says.

For the Exec-PC staff, added suspense surrounds the occasion. "It gets so busy, we have to be careful that the system doesn't crash," Ryan explains. In the past, the system has gone down for at least 30 minutes during the millionth-caller madness. And, according to Ryan, the staff has had to pull out modems to keep the activity low enough. This time around, though, they experienced no problems.

"It was exciting. We turned up all the modems here and caused quite a ruckus," Ryan says.

For more information about Exec-PC, call 414-789-4200, voice. —DH

What's Your Company's Internet Policy?

The Internet is quickly becoming the medium of choice for business commerce and communications. Yet most companies have yet to create a formalized policy on Internet usage. Businesses need to protect themselves against the potential of increased legal liability and decreased employee productivity, according to Barry Weiss, an Internet legal expert and partner in the Chicago-based law firm of Gordon & Glickson, P.C. Weiss, who has drafted policies for numerous clients, recommends that the following nine points be included in corporate policies and employee manuals:

- 1** Teach and enforce Internet etiquette. This will preserve your company's corporate image in cyberspace. You should be sure to clearly state the prohibition and ramifications of using sexual references, content or innuendos in Internet communications.
- 2** Implement authorization codes. Not everyone in every business is authorized to speak for the organization externally. Alleviate confusion by implementing authorization codes.
- 3** Track time. Install an internal account tracking system to allocate online time and transmissions to authorized internal accounts.
- 4** Restrict personal surfing time. Institute a policy to prohibit or restrict employees from browsing the Internet for personal reasons.
- 5** Define participation on bulletin boards. To reduce the risk of defamation claims, restrict chat participation to only those employees who have specific business to conduct in those forums.
- 6** Put it in writing. Draft employee agreements or corporate policies under which unauthorized use of the Internet or sharing of confidential codes and passwords could be the basis for punitive measures or dismissal.
- 7** Give advanced notice of monitoring. If you wish to monitor employee e-mail, be sure to inform employees in advance in order to avoid being cited for invasion of privacy.
- 8** Limit the downloading of information. Limit downloading of information for internal use only, to protect against copyright-infringement liabilities.
- 9** Update software. If many employees either work from their homes or put in extra hours at home, be sure that your software agreements provide for the use of the Internet and software by employees in remote locations. —DH

Charity Virtually Begins at Home

Going...going...gone to the highest bidder. The fun and excitement of bidding at a live auction is what makes cyberevents like the first real-time charity auction such a thrilling success to fun-seekers on the Internet.

Susanne Schantz, auction manager for the Computer Museum in Boston, says the museum's May auction via the World Wide Web was such a success that plans are already underway for another Web auction late this fall. "Like so many nonprofit organizations, the Computer Museum depends on donations and fundraisers to survive. The auction funds that we raise will support our educational programs, like our computer clubhouse for kids," says Schantz.

Last year the Computer Museum raised over \$14,000 at its e-mail auction. This year the Computer Museum raised over \$30,000 at its auction on the World Wide Web.

"Times have changed rapidly since last year. More and more of the mainstream public are on the Web now, so many people are able to participate in our auction as it happens. We plan the event in stages so that our server won't be overwhelmed by the tremendous response to the items we auction," according to Schantz.

Many of the items selected for the auction are museum-quality artifacts, including a pre-World War I dictaphone with ediphone, a working Millionaire four-function calculator from the early 1900s and many computer-age nostalgia items. "We never auction off part of the museum's computer collection," Schantz is quick to assure computer lovers. "We were established back in 1982 to save, care for and document the history of computing. We accept donations for our collection regularly, and those donations always stay at the museum."



Cyberauctions raise money for charities in real-time.



People interested in receiving a catalog about the Computer Museum's next fundraising auction can send an e-mail message to Schantz@tcm.org or call 617-426-2800, voice.

If you are looking for other ways to lend society a helping hand, check out Impact Online, a new Internet nonprofit agency. Co-executive director Steve Glikbarg says, "Our agency has been described as the *USA Today* of nonprofits. It's our job to provide information about nonprofit organizations across the country so that people can connect with each other. Right now we are in the process of developing an exciting, virtual volunteer program that allows people with communication and technical skills to donate their services through e-mail—sort of volunteerism without leaving the office." If you have a special background and time to donate your skills, send e-mail to ImpactOL@aol.com or call Impact Online at 415-327-1389, voice. —Robin Blakely Economu

OA



CNN Crossfire hosts Mike Kinsley and John Sununu bring heated discussions to the online world every weekday.

Motley Fool

Once a small investment newsletter, Motley Fool is now an online personal finance instrument for investors and would-be investors. Check out one of the service's nightly chats, with experts like MF HiTech and MF Value, for advice and tips. For program listings, click on Foolish Chat Central. Here's a sampling of what's scheduled for August:

High-Tech Talk Saturdays, 11 p.m.-1 a.m. EST America Online (keyword: motley)

MF HiTech will spend two hours talking about high technology. Whether it's computers, electronics or cellular phones, he follows it.

Chat With the Fools: David and Tom Gardner Tuesdays, 8-10 p.m. EST America Online (keyword: motley)

It's the Talk with the Editors Chat! Any investing subject is fair game when the Motley Fools take the plate. Ask them how the Fool Portfolio is doing, and find out how you can improve your own stock selections.

Bargain Stocks Fridays, 7-9 p.m. EST America Online (keyword: motley)

Each week, investment expert MF Value will dig for those stocks that are fundamentally sound, but selling at bargain prices. MF Value relies on the basics, but also spends time on technical analysis.

Lifetime Television for Women

Lifetime Television is a cable TV network that presents contemporary, innovative programming of special interest to women. Lifetime Television Online offers information about the programming as well as forums for discussion.

Live, Online Chat With Biggers and Summers Wed., Aug. 9 at 7 p.m. EST America Online (keyword: lifetime)

Sissy Biggers (of Lifetime Television's *Live from Queens*) and Marc Summers (former host of Lifetime Television's *Our Home*) host this live, online chat about one of Lifetime's new off-the-wall talk shows. The chat will consist of an open forum where users send e-mail providing feedback to the hosts about the show.

thirtysomething August 1-31 America Online (keyword: lifetime)

Get the complete episodic directory of one of Lifetime's most popular TV series, *thirtysomething*. Users can also download photos of the *thirtysomething* cast in the photo gallery.



Through August, download photos of the *thirtysomething* cast on AOL's Lifetime.

Online Events for August

By Dana Humphrey

CNN Online

CNN Online provides up-to-the-minute news electronically from the world's news leader, CNN (Cable News Network). The online events listed below are shown in conjunction with a particular CNN TV show.

Crossfire Monday-Friday at 8 p.m. EST CompuServe (go cnn forum)

The crossfire continues for CNN viewers who want to join the fray online. Immediately following CNN's most popular debate program, CompuServe members are invited to take up the day's issue with other viewers. (Enter the Studio in Room #1.)

CNN Presents Sundays at 10 p.m. EST CompuServe (go cnn forum)

The CNN Forum hosts a series of talks following the airing of CNN Presents, a televised news magazine show. (Enter the Studio in Room #1 to join the discussion.) While breaking news events may preempt some shows, here are the currently planned topics of discussion:

The Media Circus—Trash talk, nightly violence and tabloid TV: Have we, in the media, gone too far?

Who Killed Baseball—A look at the world of professional baseball and what caused the 1994 players' strike.

Maximum Insecurity—A look at the intensifying fear of crime that has triggered an explosion in prison construction nationwide.

Q&A Sessions on the O.J. Simpson Trial Sundays at 4 p.m. EST CompuServe (go ojforum)

Throughout the O.J. Simpson trial, one of CNN's legal analysts, Greta Van Susteren or Roger Cossack, joins the Gallery (Room #1) to answer your questions about the trial.



Investment expert Bill Donoghue will critique your portfolio on CompuServe.

Do-It-Yourself Investment Help CompuServe (go biznews)

Bill Donoghue, America's do-it-yourself investment guru, will critique CompuServe member investment portfolios in the CNN Business Forum once a month.

Donoghue is the founder of the award-winning mutual fund advisory newsletter, *Donoghue's MoneyLetter*. To put Mr. Donoghue's expertise and insight to work for your money, check out the Stock Talk sections.

ABC Online

ABC Online provides a wide variety of interactive news, entertainment and information services.

Celebrity Watch America Online (keyword: abc)

Be on the lookout for former Beatle Ringo Starr, who will be appearing on ABC Online this month. **OA**

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waking bats who dangle in your way.**

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and laugh HA-HA at those who dare reply.

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Internet InsiderSM

By Jim Romenesko

Your guide to hot topics, cool sites, neat files and other information sprawled over the Internet and various online services.

Romenesko's Current World Wide Web Hotlist

News From the Underground *NetWatchers* is a Web-zine for serious netizens who want to stay on top of Internet legal issues—and there seem to be plenty of issues these days. With some senators talking about an Internet crackdown (others simply call it censorship), this site is a hot spot with up-to-the-minute reporting of developments on 'Net control issues. Go to <http://www.ionet.net/~mdyer/netwatch.shtml> for the latest.

other lofty media bases with his scoops. See the dust that Brainard is kicking up at <http://www.hotwired.com/Signal/Flux>. You'll have to go through a speedy registration first, but it's worth it.

Old Farmer's Almanac Even the *Old Farmer's Almanac* is on the Web these days. An especially useful page for travelers, the almanac offers a five-day projected weather forecast, along with current weather conditions, for dozens of American cities. Rain or shine, the page can be found at <http://www.nj.com/weather/index.html>.

Time Out Magazine Another treasured site for the world traveler is *Time Out* magazine's Web page (<http://www.timeout.co.uk>), which has a directory of events and feature stories centering around seven major cities. This British magazine has been around a long time and is respected in print form, but it also gets four stars for its Web page. Folks interested in New York, Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, London, Prague or Madrid will especially want to take this virtual tour. But don't expect a patriotic attitude toward the cities. Here's the headline on one feature story: "Post-Communist sleaze in the new Prague."

Fortune Finders All of you stock market watchers will want to set your Web browsers to *Money* magazine (<http://pathfinder.com/money>), which includes *Money's* daily report. Speaking of money, you may want check out *Fortune* magazine's Web page at <http://pathfinder.com/fortune>.

Money-hungry cyberseekers can find tips from *Money* magazine online.



Don't miss the Best of Shift section for "Rogues, Perverts and Pilgrims," one newbie's story of his first Internet adventure.

Cybermedia Mag My second Web-zine pick of the month is *Shift Online*, (<http://www.shift.com/Shift.home>) a media-culture mag out of Canada that explores cyberissues. True 'Netsurfers will want to get the story behind *WIRED* magazine's success, which comes from an insightful *Shift Online* e-mail interview with *WIRED* editor Louis Rossetto. You can find the Web chat at <http://www.shift.com/Shift/best/WIRED.HTML>.

Hot Gossip *HOTWIRED* has the best (and some say the meanest) insider gossip around. Columnist Ned Brainard is obviously well connected and has an attitude that just won't quit. Sometimes snotty and never apologetic, Brainard has no sacred cows in his FLUX column. He's infuriated folks from *The Wall Street Journal*, *TIME*, *The New York Times* and

Gopher Fans

Help for Newbies If you're a newbie and struggling to get around, here's some help. Using that ever-so-simple gopher command, go to una.hh.lib.umich.edu and choose INET-DIRS on the menu board. You'll find what I think is the best selection of Internet maps for beginners as well as for vets who want to expand their 'Net knowledge.

The Conservative Corner Love him or hate him, Newt Gingrich is bound to be a force in the 1996 political arena. You can read the majority leader's speeches by gophering to dol-phin.gulf.net 3000. Frame them or toss darts at them—it's your choice.

Surfin' Sites



Wall O' Shame found a 1950 Popular Mechanics item of a waterproof home, which predicted the housewife of 2000 will clean her house with a hose.

Wall O' Shame Think the world is going to hell in a handbasket? Your suspicions just might be confirmed after you visit the Wall O' Shame Web page (<http://www.milk.com/wall-o-shame/>), an amusing (if not pathetic) documentation of society's downfall. Dan Bornstein, the page's creator says, "This is my attempt to characterize the erosion of our world by displaying true stories and tidbits that are just too nonlinear." When you're done reading the absurdities—most of them brief news accounts of weirdness—be sure to peruse the comments in the guest book. A sample line I plucked out of there reads: "These stories make me feel better about myself." There should be better therapy than this.

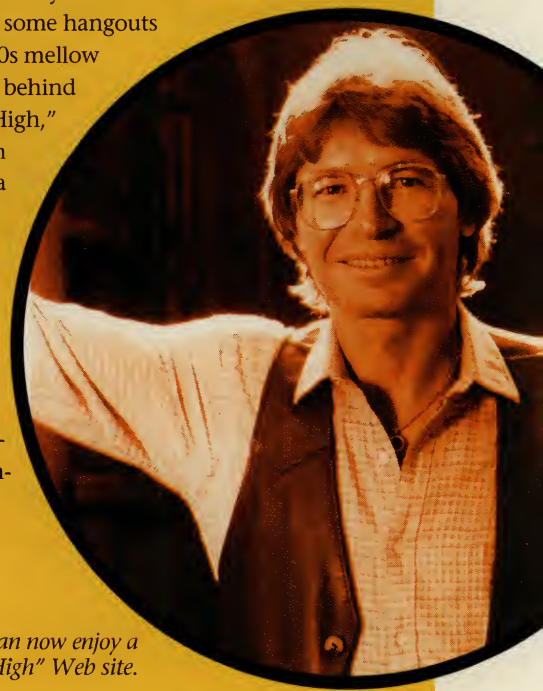
Just for Kids Prove to your youngsters that the time they spend 'Net-surfing is worth it with this ftp tip. Show them how they can download GIFs and sound files from Disney films. Take the kiddies to ftp.ctr.columbia.edu and check the /pub/DA directory for Rescue Rangers paraphernalia and other things you might not recognize, but they will.

Down and Dirty While the 'Net is no replacement for the tabloids, there's still plenty of gossip over the modem lines. Check out The Sunday Show Gossip Page (http://www.bbcnc.org.uk/bbctv/sunday_show/sunday_show_goss_ip.html) for the latest scoops on celebs, such as Madonna, Keanu Reeves and Axl Rose. This is a nicely

designed British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) production, but it seems as if all the dirt dished out is on Americans.

Fists Fly on the 'Net Before I present this site, I'll offer this disclaimer: I've used America Online for years, and I like it for some reasons. However, I also know that many people dislike it for various reasons. One of those folks has gone so far as to put up an anti-AOL page (<http://www.cloud9.net:80/~jegelhof>), which makes a case against the consumer online service. This Web page could have gone unnoticed, but then the AOL Webmaster allegedly threatened its author and the fur began flying. The dispute is fully documented at this site and it's amusing to read.

John Denver on the 'Net The Web tends to attract alternative music types; it seems as if there's a new Alice in Chains page popping up daily. But if you look hard enough, you'll find some hangouts for fans of that 1970s mellow rock. Take the man behind "Rocky Mountain High," for example. A John Denver fan put up a Web Page at <http://www.sky.net/~emily> with poetry about the singer and listings of his fan clubs, as well as a direct link to the Usenet newsgroups alt.fan.john-denver. I smell a cult here. 



John Denver fans can now enjoy a "Rocky Mountain High" Web site.

Jim Romenesko can be reached at obscure@csd4.csd.uwm.edu.

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Advocacy Online



Illustration: Bill Russel © /SIS Stock Illustration

Support
your favorite
causes online.

Charity groups, nonprofit organizations and national alliances have jumped on the bandwagon and joined forces with the Internet to advocate their causes online.

Services like **access.point**, a civic involvement system on America Online (keyword: **accesspoint**) and the Internet, are going online to create public awareness of nonprofit organizations and to unite people who are interested in making a difference in the world.

If you want to volunteer or learn more about charities, national alliances and nonprofit organizations, check out these 10 locations in cyberspace where social causes reign supreme.

1. AIDS Educational Global Information System (AEGIS) BBS

modem: **714-248-2836**

The AIDS Educational Global Information System BBS has a worldwide reputation for providing the most current and comprehensive AIDS information. It is frequented by people from all walks of life, from White House officials to high school students.

AEGIS is a nonprofit, educational organization developed by the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Currently, 26 related publications and over 180,000 files are online, including the entire National Library of Medicine. The AIDS

Online database is a popular feature that makes finding information fast and easy. Just type in a keyword that best describes your desired topic to search the database for relevant information.

An annual fee of \$36 is requested to keep the BBS in operation.

2. American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

America Online (keyword: **aarp**)

Prodigy (keyword: **aarp**)

Thirty-three million Americans over the age of 50 benefit from better insurance programs and pharmaceutical services thanks to the American Association of Retired Persons. The largest and oldest nonprofit organization of its kind, AARP helps older Americans maintain independence in their lives.

Read AARP's online newsletter for informative articles about how older Americans are reacting to current world issues. For instance, many older Americans have joined law enforcement agencies across the country to help combat crime. In addition, a wide variety of family and health topics, from disability insurance to grandparenting, is also covered in text and discussions on this forum.

3. Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC)

Web: <http://www.cais.com/woodson/afac.html>

The Arlington Food Assistance Center, a nonprofit organization consisting of five staff members and hundreds of volunteers, provides food to more than 2,000 hungry people in Arlington, Virginia, each month.

Check out this Web site for facts and background information about the AFAC as well as information about the diverse array of people who benefit from this organization, from low-income single-parent families to new employees waiting for their first paychecks. Information is also available regarding volunteer and contribution opportunities.

4. Christian Children's Fund (CCF)

CompuServe (keyword: **ccf**)

This forum is short, sweet and to the point. Users can read background information about the world's most respected child sponsorship organization, the Christian Children's Fund.

The CCF is dedicated to the survival and protection of children all over the world. In this forum, you can see pictures of actual sponsors and the children they support and read their stories. Detailed information and statistics about CCF are also provided online for people interested in donating to the organization.

5. Clean Up Information BBS

modem: **301-589-8366**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sponsors this free BBS, which is dedicated to providing information about hazardous and solid waste as well as various types of pollution.

Peruse the countless newsletters, articles and monthly reports found in the files and database sections. Visit the Message Base for discussions about groundwater pollution, toxic cleanup, oil spill prevention, incinerators and sewage. Check out the Bulletin Menu for information about this board's special interest groups (SIGs), which debate

issues like groundwater technologies and underground storage tanks.

6. Dia Center for the Arts

Web: <http://www.diacenter.org/>

Dia Center for the Arts, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting artistic and educational projects, encourages and identifies quality projects of an unusual nature.

This Web site is bursting with information about Dia's history, activities and plans for the future. You can read about events that currently take place at Dia like exhibitions, lectures, poetry readings and dance performances.

Don't miss Dia's first artistic experiment in cyberspace called Fantastic Prayers. Visitors to this Web site will enjoy a diverse compilation of artwork that contains text, images and audio and video clips.

7. Impact Online

Web: <http://www.internex.net/impact>

Impact Online is a nonprofit organization that uses technology like the World Wide Web to help people all over the world get involved in various nonprofit groups and organizations.

This colorful Web site reviews a different social issue every month, providing detailed information along with volunteer opportunities about each topic. Other features include profiles of nonprofit organizations, an online donation form and a section for volunteers who are interested in tutoring high school students or working in homeless shelters. Don't miss the Online Marketplace section, which spotlights stores that support nonprofit organizations.

8. Mike Utley Foundation

Web: <http://www.primenet.com/~image1/MikeUtley/>

Named after former Detroit Lions offensive guard Mike Utley, this foundation, which is dedicated to finding a cure for spinal cord injury paralysis, provides emotional and motivational

support to people who have become disabled from spinal cord injuries.

Features of this Web site include a summary of recent medical breakthroughs and rehabilitative programs as well as comprehensive information about Mike Utley's life and football career. You can also read about the foundation's fundraisers, which currently include an NFL-licensed merchandising program.

9. Missing Children Forum

CompuServe (keyword: **missing**)


CompuServe's Missing Children Forum is sponsored by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), a private, nonprofit organization that works closely with the U.S. Department of Justice. Top priorities of both the forum and the organization include finding and caring for missing and exploited children, providing support to families with missing children and communicating child safety information.

Visit the library for images and read the case details of current missing children. Concerned parents can download safety tips and obtain advice about choosing babysitters and day care systems. Click on the Message section for discussions about everything from state clearinghouses and family support to teen runaways and international kidnapping cases.

10. National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)

America Online (keyword: **nami**)

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, which currently has more than 140,000 members, is a grassroots, self-support and advocacy organization that consists of families and friends of people with mental illnesses.

Click on the Message Center for discussions about topics like panic disorders and for news about the latest medications for mental illnesses. Or check out the News and Updates section for information on related topics, such as teen suicide and America's health-care system. 

By Gary Robbins

Download an ocean full of sights and sounds from your favorite marine mammals.



The Dolphin Page

A great place to visit on a rainy day is the Dolphin Page, a Web site that covers dolphins, porpoises and whales (<http://wjh-www.harvard.edu/~furmansk/dolphin.html>). It's guaranteed to brighten your day. You'll soon be staring at a snapshot of three dolphins that is so endearing that you can't help but smile.

There's tons to enjoy on the Dolphin Page. You can learn how dolphins and humans interact, visit Sea World's fun and educational animal database, examine the sonogram of a pregnant killer whale and get the latest news

from marine mammal researchers and animal rights activists. Dozens of photographs, sound files and background information on marine mammals are available to you; just select Sounds and Graphics from the main menu.

Sights to Sea

I began my journey with the submenu Jennifer's Dolphin Pictures, a colorful series of photos that shows dolphins frolicking and leaping through the air. I quickly found a photo suitable for hanging on my refrigerator.

After enjoying Jennifer's pictures, I went back to the main menu and selected the Dolphin Information Server, which directed me to the more accurately titled Marine Mammal Information Server. The server is divided into three sections: List of Resources; Links to Other Related Pages; and Some Dolphin Sounds. During several visits, I could not access the List of Resources, but the two other sections worked fine. You'll find in Links to Other Related Pages the Sea World-Busch Gardens animal information database, which is one of my favorites. Mostly devoted to education, Sea World's database provides plenty of information about land animals as well as the larger marine mammals.

Sea World's database breaks things up into nine subsections, ranging from Animal Bytes and Coral Reefs to Killer Whales and Walruses. I highly recommend Animal Bytes, which contains clearly written snapshots of more than 20 animals, including dolphins, whales and sea lions. I clicked on Bottlenose Dolphins and learned that these sleek, intelligent animals sometimes toss seaweed at each other as a form of play. On the many occasions I have surfed among the dolphins in Southern California, I have never seen that happen. But I have seen dolphins slap their tails against the water's surface to herd fish into the near shore, a practice that is also mentioned in the database.

Students and educators will probably benefit most from the database, but everyone will find something of interest here. Students can research homework assignments and teachers will enjoy the special section titled Teacher's Guides, which provides concise lesson plans about dolphin behavior and a dozen other subjects. Ask Shamu is a feature that explains how to obtain detailed information from marine mammal experts.

Sounds From the Ocean

Go back to the Marine Mammal Information Server's main menu and call up Some Dolphin Sounds. You will find a brief series of whistle-like sounds produced by bottlenose dolphins named Sharky, Lotty and Betty. I played the sounds over and over, drawing strange looks from my cat.

For more sounds, return to the Dolphin Page's main menu and click on Whale Songs under the Animal Law and Protection section. You will find a collection of whale sound files that is both sweet and haunting. Rummage through an even larger sound archive by clicking on another menu choice, Orcas at Sea World, which includes recordings of 31 calls made by a male orca whale at Sea World in San Diego. Some of the calls make excellent background sounds for your telephone answering-machine message.

I clicked on Bottlenose Dolphins and learned that these sleek, intelligent animals sometimes toss seaweed at each other as a form of play.

Animal Rights Versus Research

An often bitter debate heats up over whether marine mammals should be kept in aquariums and marine parks. Both points of view are presented in two sections of the Dolphin Page: Animal Law and Protection and Human Dolphin Interaction. Keep an open mind when reading the information

and enjoy what these sections have to offer.

At the Dolphin Page's main menu, you can select Animal Law and Protection and find links to several animal rights groups and the federal agencies most responsible for enforcing the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The act, passed by Congress in 1972, makes it illegal to harass or kill dolphins, whales, seals or sea lions.

Some of the most comprehensive material comes from The Dolphin Alliance, a tiny Florida-based organization that wants all dolphins now held in captivity to be released into the wild. The alliance is also pressing for an end to the capture of whales and dolphins in U.S. waters. The group's site includes updates on state and federal legislation that involves marine mammals as well as an assortment of educational materials.

Check out the National Marine Fisheries Service, a federal agency that keeps Web surfers informed about proposed changes to the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The agency also maintains a list that tells you whether specific species are endangered, threatened or depleted.

Human-Dolphin Interaction, another major selection from the Dolphin Page's main menu, contains some information about the other side of the debate. This section provides fascinating reports on the nature and behavior of marine mammals. I was especially impressed by the offerings of the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network and WhaleNet. Here, you'll find instructions about what to do with a stranded dolphin or whale as well as whale-watching information. So dive in! **OA**

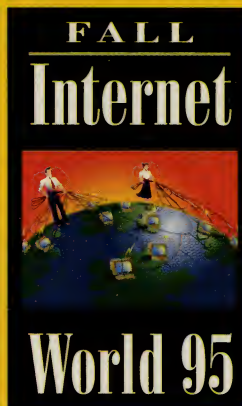
Gary Robbins is the science writer for the Orange County Register in Santa Ana, California. He can be reached via e-mail at garyrobbins@delphi.com.

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An Intergalactic Highway

Information seekers have discovered a new cyberconnection via satellite.



Illustration: Paul Anderson
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The Information Superhighway might be the buzzword at this time, but an information airline has been hauling massive loads of data through cyberspace for a couple of years now. In July 1993, Joe Overholt, founder of the satellite-delivered Shop-at-Home television channel, launched Planet Systems, Inc., which provides computer data to consumers via satellite. This service—called Skylink—lets you collect information from a virtual flood of public message forums, shareware programs, late-breaking weather maps, *USA Today*, an amazing electronic television guide and a lot more for less than \$10 per month.

Shareware Heaven

Skylink is a service that could make buying a satellite dish worth the price. If you currently own a home satellite dish and a personal computer, all you need to hook up to this service is one of Planet Systems' Skylink demodulators (\$149 suggested retail price). The demodulator connects to the back of the computer much like a modem and operates as a straight data feed.

Every day the Skylink system offers 10 to 12 megabytes of new shareware programs, which are categorized by subject, and then automatically files the shareware directly onto your hard drive. Included in the service is a software program that lists titles of the available shareware, along with descriptions, so that you can preview and select the programs you want on a daily basis. Weekends are always a smorgasbord, offering a wide variety of shareware from all categories.

Message Forums

Besides providing you with news and current events, Skylink also connects you to all the message traffic from 50 of the most popular FidoNet public message forums, including such discussion topics as genealogy, OS/2 Warp, Flight Simulators and telecommunications. Skylink customers can actually select 50 forums from a complete list of forums available. The 50 forums

Planet Connect BBSs

Retrieve a wealth of information via satellite from Planet Connect on the following BBSs:

Prime Time BBS
904-637-3713, modem

In Through The Out Door! BBS
317-282-6862, modem

The Last Outpost
504-261-9124, modem

The Evans BBS
616-754-6180, modem

Freedom BBS
216-655-9626, modem

selected are tallied and those with the most votes are carried on the service.

Skylink Bonuses

Wondering what the weather will be like tomorrow? You can receive the current forecast for any city with Skylink's full array of 16-color satellites and radar weather maps for the entire United States. You can view the maps for any area of the country that you're planning to visit by displaying them as standard .PXC graphics files on your computer screen. According to Skylink director Johnny Green, the company plans to add maps and information for more areas of the globe in the near future.

You can also keep posted on the day's breaking events with an electronic version of one of the nation's most pop-

ular daily newspapers. USA Decision-line, an electronic collection of news briefs from *USA Today*, is delivered directly to your computer daily.

TV buffs (and what satellite dish owner isn't a TV buff?) will be thrilled with Skylink's TVAGENT service, which delivers completely updated satellite television listings daily. The service allows you to customize the TV listings for your local broadcast or cable channel setup. You can also create up to 99 specialized listings, focusing specifically on each family member's interests, and conduct keyword searches. You can even turn your computer monitor into a constantly scrolling electronic TV guide, displaying only current listings of programs.

Satellite BBSs

If you desire all the data available from Skylink but want the messaging and conferencing capabilities of a BBS, you can join a BBS that subscribes to Planet Systems' Planet Connect—a data service specifically designed for information service providers.

With Planet Connect, you don't need a satellite dish or a demodulator because the BBS system operator already has the equipment. You simply request information from a BBS that subscribes to Planet Connect and the board's systems operator will get it for you if it isn't already online. The BBS receives all of the data via satellite from Planet Connect and the system operator chooses the information that is posted on the BBS.

While millions of people are driving along the Information Superhighway, fighting traffic and making frequent wrong turns as they try to get where they're going, Planet Connect BBS users and Skylink customers are sitting back in their comfortable, first-class seats, riding above the clouds. To order the Skylink demodulator, call Planet Connect at 615-623-8309, voice. **OA**

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8,N,1

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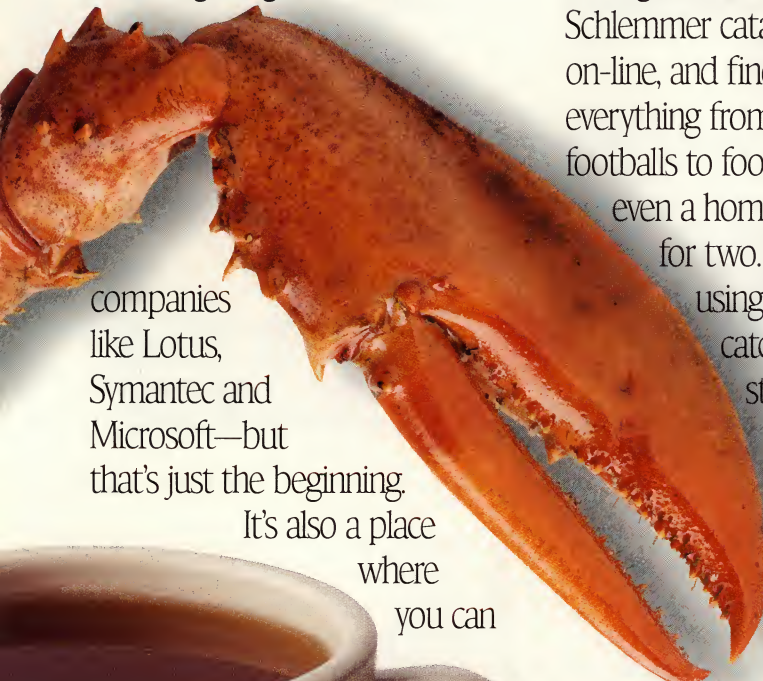
For more information,
e-mail: info@internet.net



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companies like Lotus, Symantec and Microsoft—but that's just the beginning.

It's also a place where you can



Multimedia Selves

Three-dimensional personalities invade cyberspace on the World Wide Web.

VESPERS

My Music

Name: Jan Hanford

- **Birthdate:** August 16, 1953
- **Born In:** Suburban Philadelphia, PA
- **Residence:** Suburban Washington, DC
- **Education:** B.A. in Music Composition

My Favorite Web Sites

Personal Info

Although it seems that the Internet has just begun, new users and the media are already concerned about its future. Will the Internet be flooded with advertising? Will we soon have to pay tolls at every Web site? Is the culture of cyberspace changing?

Contrary to the growing fears over the impact of businesses rushing to stake their claims in cyberspace, the Internet is not in danger of becoming an impersonal tool for manipulating the minds of wired consumers. Today, the Web is closing the circle of intimate communication to vast and distant audiences. There is every indication that

the World Wide Web, the focal point of commercial activity on the 'Net, is in fact turning out to be an intensely human environment as well as a unique form of self-expression.

Internet members are using the Web to communicate their life stories and extend their personalities to a degree that no other medium has ever made possible. The Web enables users to communicate who they are through a variety of mediums simultaneously. Users interact with others using images, text, sound and motion pictures that they create. The Web makes it possible for the average person to use these

multimedia tools to convey more information about himself than ever before. In essence, users create multimedia selves—human personalities transformed into a computer-generated medium—to allow for a more intimate understanding of the individual. Short of person-to-person, face-to-face interaction, no other medium allows us to say “this is who I am” to the degree that cyberspace presently does. This is the dawn of the multimedia self.

A Web Close Encounter

One 'Net citizen, Jan Hanford, sent me e-mail after she visited my Web site, inviting me to take a look at her personal Web page at <http://www.shelby.com/pub/wsg/html/jan/>. I turned on my Web browser and surfed over to Jan's Web site, where I discovered Jan's age, hobbies, favorite books and music (with links to the musicians' Web pages) and stories about her cat, Bernie.

Jan's pages are well designed, so it came as no surprise to find that she's a professional Web-page builder. She has also filed samples of her first compact disc, which I downloaded and played over my stereo using my computer's sound card. After checking out Jan's Web page, I recorded a voice message for her with my sound card and sent it over the Web.

Personal People Pages

As a result of increasing competition among Internet providers and as the cost of disk space continues to drop, the time will come when every Internet member has his or her own personal Web page. Internet providers are increasingly offering free, personal Web pages to their clients as a means of attracting new business in a highly competitive market. These trends indicate that the Web will be populated by hundreds of millions of individuals by the next decade.

The People Page, a free service that provides an index of personal Web pages, enables people to add links to their own Web sites. Rhese S. Hoylman IV, a 23-year-old 'Net entrepreneur in Woodlands, Texas, started this service in March 1995 as a means of keeping track of all his 'Net friends. He plans to support it through paid sponsorships. Rhese expects that there will be tens of thousands of Internet members indexed at the People Page by the end of the year. He is undoubtedly correct. (You can visit the People Page at http://www.nhmccd.cc.tx/people/rhese/people/ppl_form.html.)

If you are on the Internet but do not have your own personal Web page, surf over to the HomePage Publisher at <http://www-bprc.mps.ohiostate.edu/HomePage/>.

This free service, sponsored by Ohio State University, helps you create a personal Web page of up to five pages in length. Presently, there are over 1,500 personal home pages at this site.

We Are the Web

Most content on the Internet has been put there not by companies but by Internet members. In the future, the main content of cyberspace will continue to be people who are not merely surfing, but who are also presenting their multimedia selves to the online world. **OA**

Michael Strangelove is the publisher of The Internet Business Journal and the author of How to Advertise on the Internet. He can be reached via e-mail at mstrange@fonorola.net.

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Illustration: Hank Osuna

Internet Tools

Make the most of the Web's multimedia capabilities with power-user tools.

So you're finally connected to the Internet. You've got your Web browser warmed up and you're ready to charge out into the vast, digital unknown with confidence and an adventurous spirit. Now you need the proper equipment to enhance the Internet's multimedia capabilities.

E-mail and ftp

Two of the most popular activities on the 'Net are sending e-mail and downloading files via ftp (file transfer protocol). Now there's a handy freeware program called Eudora that will organize and enhance your e-mail. Eudora, which is available for Windows, Mac and UNIX systems, packages a quality e-mail program with an address book, customizable folders and offline reader capabilities.

Though many Web browsers now integrate ftp capabilities, these ftp features can be confusing. The best solution is a dedicated ftp client program, such as FTP Client for Windows. With the FTP Client program, you keep a simple database of frequently visited ftp locations and store important information, such as usernames, passwords and

directory locations in the program. With a split-screen file menu, sending files between your desktop and an ftp site is as simple as highlighting the files and clicking on the mouse. Selecting and transferring multiple files at once is an especially cool feature. Just highlight the files you want to download and FTP Client takes over. FTP Client for Windows, available in both 16- and 32-bit versions is free for personal, noncommercial use.

Usenet Newsgroups

Usenet newsgroups bring together millions of Internet users through public discussions via posted messages. With such a flurry of activity, sorting through messages in the newsgroups can be a frustrating process. If your system is equipped with Trumpet News Reader, however, wading through the newsgroups is straightforward and simple. Trumpet News Reader for Windows lists all the newsgroups available from your service provider and lets you subscribe to your favorites without the hassle of sorting through the many newsgroups. The program organizes Usenet posts by subject instead of by chronological order, making discussions easier to follow.

Web Sights

The Web is becoming increasingly graphical as more creative minds add

Internet Tool Information

their versions to this interactive medium. In order to fully enjoy the variety of Web pages, you'll need the proper viewers for the many sound, image and music file formats that you'll encounter. Most current versions of Web browsers include built-in viewers for GIF and JPG files, but these viewers have no editing ability and are limited in their file-handling capabilities. If you plan to make full use of the multimedia images on the Internet, you'll need a dedicated image editor such as Paint Shop Pro or LView Pro.

Windows power users have known about Paint Shop Pro, an award-winning, image-editing program, for quite some time. Paint Shop Pro supports over 30 image formats, making it hard to find an unviewable image. You can create your own images from scratch or alter existing ones with the painting capabilities of the 3.0 version. You can't beat the power and flexibility of Paint Shop Pro for its price—a paltry \$39 to register.

Another popular image viewer is LView Pro, a shareware program for personal, noncommercial use. LView Pro, a good choice for the Web, was designed to take full advantage of the JPG image format. Its image-retouching options make use of sophisticated mathematical equations that enhance your images with tight precision. LView Pro suffers from a difficult user interface, but the adventurous user will quickly unlock the incredible power of this program. Registration for LView Pro is \$30, and it entitles you to receive a 32-bit version of the program enhanced for Windows NT and Windows '95.

'Net Sounds

Sound files also present a challenge to Web surfers as there aren't any clear standards for sound files on different platforms. You'll need a sound-playing utility that supports a wide variety of formats. Two good choices are WHAM! for Windows users and SoundApp for the Macintosh. Both handle most of the sound formats you'll encounter in your Internet travels, including the SunNeXT.AU format found on many UNIX servers. If you're using a PC-based

Eudora
QUALCOMM Inc.
6455 Lusk Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92121-2779
1-800-2-EUDORA, voice

quest-rep@qualcomm.com

Available on the CompuServe Internet Resources Forum (go inetre), located in Library 4 (PC) with filename 14WIN.EXE or Library 5 (MAC) with filename EUDFAT.SEA. Also available on the Internet at ftp.qualcomm.com/quest/windows/eudora/documentation in the file 14manual.exe.

FTP Client for Windows

Ipswitch, Inc.
81 Hartwell
Lexington, MA 02173
617-246-1150, voice
info@ipswitch.com

Available on the CompuServe Internet Resources Forum (go inetre). It's located in Library 4 with filename WS_FTP32.ZIP.

Trumpet News Reader

peter@psychnet.psychol.utas.edu.au

Available on the ZiffNet/CompuServe PBS Applications Forum (go znt:pbsapp). Located in Library 11 (Internet) with filename WTSK.ZIP. Also found on the Internet at ftp.utas.edu.au/pc/trumpet/wintrump/.*

WHAM!

Andrew Bulhak
21 The Crescent
Ferntree Gully Vic 3156
Australia
acb@yoyo.cc.monash.edu.au

Available for download on Channel 1 BBS, 617-354-3230, modem, (WHAM131.ZIP)

SoundApp
Norman Franke
1885 Paseo Laguna Seco
Livermore, CA 94550
franke1@lmi.gov

Available on CompuServe in the ZiffNet/Mac Download Forum (go znt:downtech and select filename SOUAPP.SIT).

Paint Shop Pro

JASC, Inc.
10901 Red Circle Dr., Suite 340
Minnetonka, MN 55343
1-800-622-2793, voice
76226,2652@compuserve.com

Available on the CompuServe Windows 3rd Party C+ Forum (go jasc) in Library 16 select file PSP.ZIP.

LView Pro

Leonardo Haddad Loureiro
1501 East Hallandale Beach Blvd., #254
Hallandale, FL 33009
Registration: \$30

Available from Software Creations BBS, 508-368-6604, modem, filename LVVIEW.ZIP.

MPEGPlay

Michael Simmons
P.O. Box 506
Nedlands WA 6009
Australia
michael@ecel.uwa.edu.au

Registration: \$25
Available on the CompuServe WUGNET Forum (go wugnet) in Library 9, select file MPGLY.ZIP.

QuickTime 2.0

Available from CompuServe for \$9.95 (go qtime) for both Mac OS (System 7.5) and Windows.

system, you'll need to install a sound card and speakers. It's possible to play sound files through your PC speakers but the results are primitive at best.

Files in Motion

Multimedia files are also beginning to build a presence on the Internet. Although the downloads can take a long time and the results are sometimes less than thrilling, with the right tools you have the advantage of seeing full-motion video with sound.

Two emerging standards for multimedia on the Web are QuickTime and MPEG. Most of the really cool multimedia titles are being produced in QuickTime format—the format of choice for Macintosh users. If you're not already running a Macintosh with System 7 software installed, you'll need the commercial QuickTime viewer. Both Mac and Windows versions are avail-

able and can be ordered directly from Apple or downloaded with a surcharge on several online services.

MPEG is an emerging standard that compresses the overall size of a multimedia file. Windows users should take a look at a shareware program called MPEGPlay. This 32-bit program requires either Windows NT, Windows '95 or Windows 3.1 with the Win32 extensions. The MPEGPlay documentation contains in-depth information on the MPEG standard and instructions about how it works.

New file formats and standards are constantly emerging, and the Internet is evolving at an unprecedented rate. To stay abreast of what's cool on the Web, just jump in and explore. Using these utilities and enhancements will take you even further into the depths of the Internet. **OA**

Launch Pad

BBSs Your Neighborhood Online Service

By Carol Freer

Join a BBS and see what it can do for you.



An online service could be located just across the street from you, and you don't even know it! There are an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 public bulletin board systems (BBSs) operated by teens and adults for business, education and entertainment. BBSs are run everywhere—in homes, offices, garages and basements. With a computer, a modem and telecommunications software, you can join a BBS.

As a member of a BBS, you can send e-mail, check your local weather forecast, download a software program, surf the Internet, play a video game or communicate with other online members. It's all just a modem call away.

You will find thousands of BBS modem numbers, listed by area code, in the quarterly ONLINE ACCESS BBS Phone Book. (See the June 1995 issue and the upcoming September 1995 issue.) Call as many of the boards as you wish. Many BBS users have accounts on as many as five to 10 boards. Don't be afraid to jump in!

Your First Call

To start, dial a BBS modem number from your telecommunications software, such as ProComm Plus, HyperAccess or QModem Pro. When connected, the BBS will display an opening information screen and then ask for your username and password. (Your username is how you will be identified on the board, and your password is required at the start of each session.) On most BBSs, a username consists of your first

and last names, but some allow you to create an alias. Don't forget to write down your username, alias and password, and keep them in a secure place.

Registration As a new user you will be required to go through a registration/configuration procedure before you can access a BBS's main features. The operator of the system, or sysop (pronounced sí-s-op), will ask you questions, such as your birth date, to verify your identity in case you forget your password. If a board asks for a credit-card number during this process, leave the system and try another.

Next, the configuration process sets the BBS parameters to your computer settings, so that the BBS information translates to your screen. Don't worry if you are unsure about how to answer the questions on the screen. Once on the BBS, you will have access to your settings, and you can make adjustments. (See page 40 for Common Configuration Tips.) Once you're registered, you have access to a whole new world of fun, entertainment and interaction.

Verification Your access to most boards will be limited until the system operator can review your registration and verify your answers. Sometimes he or she will simply call and ask new users to verify information over the phone. Occasionally, a callback verification program will be used, which is an automatic process that will disconnect your call, pause and then

dial your modem number. When it connects with your computer, you will be asked to type your password. Once the program receives and verifies your password, you can access the BBS.

A File Here, A Graphic There

Once you're registered, you can access the heart of a BBS—the main menu. This is your launch pad for all operations on the board. While the setup varies from board to board, the menu (either text-based or GUI) is usually divided into four segments: messages, files, games and system information.

Messages On a BBS, there are three basic ways to directly communicate with others: by private electronic mail (e-mail), public message forums and online chat, both public and private.

The most basic feature is sending electronic mail to another user of the BBS. Whether business or personal, e-mail is meant to be read only by the recipient. However, you should be aware that the sysop can read everything on the board, even your most private messages. Some BBSs are members of mail networks, such as Fidonet and RelayNet, which allow you to exchange messages with users of any other BBS within the network.

Public message forums allow many people to discuss a specific topic, such as sports or politics. User participation ranges from simple Q&A to ongoing dialogues. Forums within a BBS network are there for you to interact with many BBS users. Because forums reach people nationwide and worldwide, networks offer a wide range of topics.

Multiline BBSs allow for real-time, online chat. Simply put, real-time chat is live conversation, where one reads your message as you type it. These conversations can be either private, one-on-one, or public, with many people participating.

Files The number of files available online is astonishing. Many sysops pride themselves on their collection of shareware, graphics, text and multimedia files. Even if you aren't searching for a specific software program or graphic, take a

look at the file selection available from the main menu. You might find something you didn't know you needed.

Files are stored in file libraries or directories, usually arranged by topic. To search the files, access the desired file library, which lists available files. You can perform a keyword search for a desired file as well.

Many BBSs with large file libraries give access for downloading their files to subscribers only. Most text and program files on BBSs are compressed to reduce the file's size, which means you won't be able to use the file unless it is decoded. Common data compression programs are PKZip and ARJ. You can acquire PKZip compression software by calling PKWare, Inc. at 414-354-8670, modem, or 414-354-8699, voice.

It is easy to spot files that are compressed with these programs because their filenames include the extension .zip or .arj, respectively. Information on the compression programs used on a BBS can be found in a board's news bulletins and in the programs themselves. These programs are usually available for downloading in the board's file library.

Games and Entertainment Online games have moved from the solitary tic-tac-toe and hangman to interactive games of adventure, strategy and role-play, such as *Barron Realms* and *Tradewars*. Games can be played alone, against other users on the board or in teams against other BBSs. Methods of play vary greatly, so it is best to read the information on each BBS regarding available games, rules and regulations. You will find BBSs speckled with other entertainment features, too, from fortune-telling and personality tests to online publications, movie databases and television schedules.

System Information Under the System Information heading of the main menu, you will find your account status, settings configuration, system bulletins and general information. Read this information carefully to learn the rules and regulations of the BBS and to find out about current events on the board.

Making the Connection BBSs are as unique as the people who operate them. Thousands of graphics files could be offered on one board, while another BBS might host medical forums and offer no files. Whatever your hobbies or interests are, someone in cyberspace shares your viewpoint. And you never know, you might meet your next-door neighbor online.

Online Connection Information

Bulletin Board Systems

Deep Cove BBS
Box 45504 Sunnyside Mall PO
Surrey, BC CANADA V4A9N3
604-536-5885, modem
604-541-2025, voice

Father & Son BBS
2802 MacArthur
Whitehall, PA 18052
610-439-1509, modem
610-439-0117, voice

Midwest BBS
11 North 1st St.
Geneva, IL 60134
708-513-1034, modem
708-208-8868, voice

Monterey Gaming System BBS
P.O. Box 2153
Monterey, CA 93942-2153
408-655-5555, modem
408-655-5525, voice

Consumer Online Services

America Online
8619 Westwood Center Dr.
Vienna, VA 22182-2285
800-827-6364, voice

CompuServe
5000 Arlington Centre Blvd.
P.O. Box 20212
Columbus, OH 43220
800-848-8199, voice
614-457-8650, voice

Prodigy
445 Hamilton Ave.
White Plains, NY 10601
800-PRODIGY, voice

Common Configuration Tips

Here are common configuration questions and the default answers to clear up any confusion you may have while logging on to your first BBS.

- 1** *How wide is your screen?*
The default is 80 characters per screen.
- 2** *How many lines can you display?*
The default is 24 lines per screen.
- 3** *What kind of terminal do you have?*
The default is usually ANSI-BBS. Check your telecommunications program for compatible terminal emulators.
- 4** *Do you want to use the full-screen text editor?*
"Yes" is the default. The full-screen editor allows you to see one screenful of text at a time, as opposed to one line of text at a time.
- 5** *What transfer protocol would you like?*
You will have many protocols to choose from, but the default usually chooses the protocol before each file transfer, rather than choosing one particular protocol for everything. Consult your telecommunications software manual for available protocols. Z-modem is usually the fastest protocol.

Glossary

Here are some common BBS terms that you may encounter on your first BBS adventure.

Data compression - A process performed by data compression software that reduces the size of a file by replacing common character combinations with coded characters. Once compressed, the file is smaller and takes less time to transfer. A file must be decompressed before reading.

Download - The process of copying a computer file from another computer to your computer's hard drive using an online connection.

GUI (graphical user interface) - A user-friendly menu system that contains graphics rather than text.

Screen height - The vertical measurement of your computer screen, measured in the number of lines it is able to display. The usual screen height is 24 lines.

Screen width - The horizontal width of your computer screen, usually measured by the number of characters that can be viewed. The average screen width is 80 characters.

System operator (sysop) - The person who operates or owns a BBS.

Terminal emulation - Your computer acts as a terminal and uses a language or emulator to facilitate communication with another computer.

Transfer protocol - Language used to download or upload files from one computer to another. Both computers must use the same language, such as ASCII, Kermit, X-modem, Z-modem.

Upload - To copy a computer file from your computer's hard drive to another computer using an online connection. **OA**

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20

Great Bulletin Boards All Over the Map

By Brenda Kukla

Bulletin board systems (BBSs) are one of the most beloved and popular neighborhoods in cyberspace because they tend to be less crowded and less expensive than the major online services. Until a few years ago, the only way a person in California could call a BBS in Illinois was via a long distance phone call. Today that is no longer true. The Internet and BBS gateways now allow online users to call up far-flung bulletin board systems with a local call.

Connecting to BBSs

Bulletin board systems are run by individuals called system operators or sysops, who turn their PCs into a communications headquarters. All you need to connect to a BBS is a computer, a modem and a telecommunications program, such as PROCOMM PLUS, QmodemPro or Smartcom. From your telecommunications software, you can dial up a BBS (through a local or long-distance call) via your modem.

The term "national access" has become a buzzword among BBS users. If a bulletin board system has national access, it means that the board can be reached by people in various states via a local phone call. BBS gateways, such as Global Access and BBS Direct, help make communication like this possible by supplying connectivity or phone lines to bulletin board systems, which create local area modem numbers for BBS users. When you join a BBS gateway, you receive a local area number that lets you dial up a BBS via your modem through a local call. Unlike phone companies, BBS gateways charge customers a flat, hourly rate or a monthly fee. (See sidebar on BBS Gateways, page 44, for more information.)

Illustration: Mary Ross

20 Great Bulletin Boards

Another popular way to access bulletin board systems is on the Internet via telnet. Telnetting enables you to connect to a host other than the one you are already connected to. Depending on your Internet access provider, telnetting can also provide you with local access numbers.

Ben Cunningham, owner and sysop of the Nashville Exchange BBS—a growing board in Nashville, Tennessee—believes that telnetting has fueled a gradual yet significant growth rate on his BBS. “I have seen a growth rate of 30 to 40 percent per year as a result of telnet capability. Telnetting is great for people who log in to chat or to send e-mail.”

BBS Gateways

If all of this talk about national access has piqued your interest, read on. It is important to remember that gateways vary by price. So before you sign up, be sure to get all the facts. To subscribe, some gateways recommend that you call their BBSs via modem to obtain general information about their service. Sometimes you even have the option of subscribing to the service online. Most BBS gateways, however, recommend that you set up your account by phone.

For more information, contact the following BBS gateways that are mentioned in this article:

ADP AutoNet

175 Jackson Plaza
Ann Arbor, MI 48106
Voice: 313-769-6800
Fax: 313-995-6458

BBS Direct

400 41st St.
Bay City, MI 48708
Voice: 517-895-0500 or 800-745-2747
Fax: 517-895-0529
Modem: 800-991-4227

Global Access

P.O. Box 31474
Charlotte, NC 28231
Voice: 800-377-DATA
Modem: 704-332-4023

Tessier Technologies (SprintNet access)

1876 N. University Dr., Suite 200
Plantation, FL 33322
Voice: 305-473-5525
Fax: 305-473-2122

Note: Customers should call SprintNet at 800-877-5045, voice, for local access numbers.

Why BBSs?

Bulletin board systems have survived and even flourished in the online world for several reasons. First, BBSs are a great place to meet new people. Second, BBSs offer users a personalized niche in cyberspace where they can share their interests, from music and the arts to politics and religion.

Kenya Patton has been a member of the Sounds of Silence BBS for two years. She says that going online has spiced up her social life and made meeting new people easy. “I have met some of the most wonderful friends at this family-oriented BBS. We have parties and events almost every weekend for members of all ages.” Besides offering numerous benefits to members, many BBSs also extend guest accounts, which give prospective users a sneak preview of the boards’ features. Helpful sysops and user-friendly interfaces also make BBSs an ideal starting point for novices interested in exploring cyberspace.

Software Creations BBS member Terry Herrin praises the service. “There is a great knowledge base here. The Software Creations sysop is constantly trying to improve the service and its features. If anyone has problems or questions, the sysop or other users respond immediately with advice.”

BBSs vs. Major Online Services

Because bulletin board systems are more specialized and less expensive, many people prefer them to the major online services, such as America Online, CompuServe and Prodigy.

Jim Walton, sysop of the Sounds of Silence BBS, explains: “BBSs can offer community-like specialties that the big

online services can’t. Every BBS has a distinct personality.”

No matter what the topic or focus, virtually all bulletin board systems share two characteristics: an intimate, friendly atmosphere and loyal, committed users.

While one particular board is a haven for the latest files and shareware, another’s forte might be multiplayer games. Yet another board’s attraction might be intense, stimulating messages traded in its various chat rooms.

Greg Ryan is vice president of operations at Exec-PC—the largest BBS in the world. He explains that BBSs can offer users some personal features that the major online services cannot. “People can get lost in the major online service populations. BBSs are more like a family gathering. Sysops are quick to answer users’ questions, and the prices are much better.”

Areas for Improvement

There are some elements of BBSing that can be frustrating. Twenty-minute registration processes requiring visitors to answer surveys or write small biographies are surefire ways to annoy visitors and discourage them from joining the board, especially if all of this must be done before browsing the main menu. Outdated software and upload and download ratio requirements can also be irritating.

Although BBSs are gradually being improved and updated, the process still isn’t fast enough for some BBS users. However, bulletin board systems have staying power. They have in the past and will continue in the future to provide quality and specialized services that lend warmth and personality in cyberspace.



Top 20 BBSs

Here is a list of 20 bulletin board systems that can be accessed via the Internet or through local area numbers. All of these boards have national access and the essential ingredients for an enjoyable BBS experience—good graphics, easy navigation and excellent content.

The BBSs are listed in alphabetical order, with a brief description that includes their modem number, gateway provider, location, membership rates and special features.

America's Suggestion Box

Modem: 516-471-8625

Voice: 516-981-1953

Telnet: asb.com

Location: Ronkonkoma, NY

Cost: \$20 plus tax for three months; \$35 plus tax for one year; for an additional \$21, you get unlimited access

Are you looking for information about the latest world and national events? Look no further than America's Suggestion Box. This board features daily news from the Associated Press and *USA Today*. There's also comprehensive coverage of sports, syndicated features and the weather. If you seek specific business or personal news, check out the searchable databases for information about financial and medical issues, recipes, science fiction and games.

Aquila BBS

Modem: 708-820-8344

Voice: 708-820-0480

Telnet: aquila.com

BBS Gateway: Global Access

Location: Aurora, IL

Cost: basic membership is \$8.95 for one month, \$25 for three months and \$75 for one year

Organization is the name of the game at Aquila BBS. This board makes BBSing easy. A voice support line is also available for users should any unlikely problem occur. If that isn't enough to draw in new users, the board also offers over 120,000 shareware files and 2,500 Usenet newsgroups.

Channel 1

Modem: 617-354-3230

Voice: 617-864-0100

Telnet: bbs.channel1.com

BBS Gateway: BBS Direct

Location: Cambridge, MA

Cost: \$35 for three months with full Internet access included

Stop by Channel 1 for a sneak preview of the features without having to register. Colorful graphics make maneuvering this board a breeze. Don't miss out on the lively chat sessions—one of this board's fortes. Chat rooms are available about everything from pop music and science fiction to aviation and bicycles. Some extras include closing stock quotes, shopping and weather.

Computer Data Services (CDS)

Modem: 512-887-0787

BBS Gateway: BBS Direct

Location: Corpus Christi, TX

Cost: \$29 for three months with full Internet access; \$79 for one year

If you are interested in prizes and giveaways, CDS is the perfect board for you. Contests are held regularly with prizes like 28.8 Kbps (28,800 bps) modems, \$50 in cash or online games. No wonder this board is the largest BBS in Texas, with 5,387 members.

A two-day, free trial membership is available for people who want to look around. New users will love the colorful graphics and appreciate the News Center, which contains a menu of 16 choices explaining the system.

The Dragon's Keep BBS

Modem: 904-375-3500

Voice: 904-372-0735

Telnet: dkeep.com

Location: Gainesville, FL

Cost: 25 cents per hour or \$5 for 50,000 credits

Broaden your horizons with a visit to The Dragon's Keep BBS. You'll be transported back in time to an era when fierce knights and damsels in distress reigned supreme. The delightful, medieval theme is sure to put a smile on your face.

Awesome graphics and cool games are plentiful on this BBS. Visit the Gaming Gate to participate in Worlds of Darkness and Galactic Empire. Or practice saving the world in Tradewars 2002. Forums contain discussions on everything from philosophy to fiction. Be sure to offer a donation. After all, where else can you be knighted for \$10?

BBSs With Local Appeal

For helpful news you can use, check out these state or local BBSs. These boards serve as information gateways for people seeking knowledge about a particular location. They're loaded with useful information about specific communities, including politics and local events. You can even chat with the locals and get the inside scoop. (Note: Since most of these BBSs do not have national access because of their size and regional data, long-distance charges may apply.)

Colorado Online

Modem: 303-666-7188

Location: Louisville, CO

Cost: free

Colorado Online is dedicated to promoting public participation in state government and community affairs. Currently, you must be a citizen of Colorado for admission to the discussion forums. However, everyone has access to the Professional Sports area where game schedules, locations and dates are listed for Colorado's professional football, baseball and basketball teams.

The general public can also visit the Recreation Center for descriptions, contact information and directions to many of Colorado's state and national parks.

Minnesota Lakes BBS

Modem: 612-296-8811

Location: St. Paul, MN

Cost: free

They say Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes. So,

this BBS is definitely the resource for information about those bodies of water. Sponsored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Division of Water Quality, this BBS provides a lot of useful data about the Minnesota Lakes Association and the Citizens for Lake-Monitoring program.

Online Montgomery

Modem: 334-277-2221

Telnet: 204.96.29.2

Location: Montgomery, AL

Cost: free or \$3.95 per month for national chat

After visiting this BBS, you'll feel as if you've actually been to Montgomery, Alabama. Information is online about the city's businesses, events and housing. Find out what's playing at the town's movie theater or when the Montgomery Zoo opens in the morning. Or read the local newspaper online.

Anyone planning a move to Montgomery should check out the Online Realty database that currently houses over 700 property listings.

Real Exposure

Modem: 212-376-4444

Location: New York, NY

Cost: \$30 for three months for four hours per day

Local conferences dedicated to talk about New York's people, interests, bars and clubs, crime, theater and sports dominate this BBS. Users have access to information about New York jobs, and they can post their resumes online as well.

Vegas Playground

Modem: 702-383-9939

Location: Las Vegas, NV

Cost: \$25 for three months; \$49 for one year

Planning a trip to Las Vegas? Don't hit the gambling tables without checking out the Las Vegas Online Entertainment Guide. Here you will find general information about Las Vegas, its famous shows and local news. You can even find out what the weather is like before you pack.

The Vegas Playground provides a wholesome atmosphere that the entire family can enjoy.

20 Great Bulletin Boards

Echo

Modem: 212-989-8411

Voice: 212-255-3839

Felnet: echonyc.com

Location: New York, NY

Cost: \$19.95 per month for 30 hours

Echo is always buzzing with conversation. New York residents and fans have a home in the New York City conference, where discussions take place about the city's various neighborhoods, dance clubs and urban artists.

Don't miss the Hidden New York area for cool places and hangouts that many out-of-towners may not know about. Movies & TV, Culture and Books are other popular conference areas.

Exec-PC

Modem: 414-789-4500

Voice: 414-789-4210

Felnet: bbs.execpc.com

BBS Gateway: SprintNet, BBS Direct and CompuServe Network

Location: New Berlin, WI

Cost: \$25 for three months or \$75 for one year

The 128 incoming lines connecting users to Exec-PC are what make this board the world's largest BBS. Since 1982, Exec-PC has had over 950,000 of the latest and best Macintosh, IBM, Windows and Amiga files and programs. Quality business and educational programs, games, tutorials and full Internet access are

other popular features. Be sure to check out the online job and travel searches.

The Garbage Dump

Modem: 505-294-5675

Voice: 505-294-4980

Felnet: dump.com

BBS Gateway: Global Access

Location: Hubs in Albuquerque, NM; Denver, CO; Dallas, TX; and Phoenix, AZ

Cost: 50 cents per hour

The good times roll at The Garbage Dump BBS. Barbecues, parties and picnics are planned regularly for all to attend. Garbage Dump hostess Debbie Meaden says people have journeyed from places like New York, Florida and Michigan to attend these legendary gatherings.

Chat and multiplayer games may be The Garbage Dump's most popular features, but it's the atmosphere that initially attracts users. The sysops and members of this board create a fun and loving environment that few can resist.

KBBS

Modem: 818-886-0872

Felnet: 204.96.25.7

Location: Los Angeles, CA

Cost: \$25 per month with limited access; other packages available

Social events, such as weekly coffeehouse gatherings, are what makes KBBS such a great BBS. This general interest board covers a multitude of popular services and features, from full Internet access and match-making to virtual reality games and color pictures. Go ahead and browse the thousands of singles' profiles online or talk your heart out on one of the party channel chat lines. Whatever your fancy, KBBS definitely caters to it.

Liberty Information Network

Modem: 213-732-2300

Voice: 800-218-5157

Felnet: liberty.com

BBS Gateways: BBS Direct, SprintNet and MCI/PC-Connect

Location: Anaheim, CA

Cost: \$25 per month

Want your own Web page? The members of Liberty Information Network get that privilege and much more. Almost unlimited time online, full Internet access and a toll-free voice line are just a few of this board's bonuses. Liberty users also happen to be chat experts, so all of you talkers out there will feel right at home in this BBS's chat rooms.

Microseller

Modem: 201-239-0001

BBS Gateway: BBS Direct

Location: Verona, NJ

Cost: \$20 for six months with 30 minutes of access per day

Join Microseller's Planet Earth conference to chat about everything from health care and parenting to world news and politics. If you're artistically inclined, visit the Pen & Brush area for discussions about rare books, poetry, music, painting and related workshops.

Another nice bonus is the U.S. weather forecast feature. Just type in your state, and you'll get a full report of the weather activity in your area.

MindVox

Modem: 212-843-0801 or 212-843-5050

Voice: 212-989-2418

Felnet: 198.67.3.2

Location: New York, NY

Cost: \$30 per month for full Internet access; \$10 per month for basic BBS service

Writers will truly love MindVox's Writing Workshop, which features tips and special discussions about various issues of concern to both amateur and professional writers. A diverse array of topics is discussed in the conference areas, from art and music to legal issues affecting cyberspace and software updates. Go ahead and enjoy yourself. At this BBS, anything goes.

The Movie BBS

Modem: 718-939-5462

Voice: 718-321-3551

BBS Gateway: Global Access

Location: New York, NY

Cost: \$15 for a one-month trial subscription; \$30 for three months

The Movie BBS is a one-of-a-kind place that offers profiles of celebrities and movie stars online. Simply type in **actor**, **actress** or **director** and a per-

Macintosh BBSs

By Rita Laws

Mac users, here is your opportunity to log on to five wonderful BBSs, all with a distinct Macintosh flavor. PC users can check out these boards, too, but they may miss out on special features and graphics.

Information about artists, writers, vacation hot spots and computer societies can be found at these BBSs. Some boards are free, others require membership, but all are worth checking out if you are a Macintosh user.

Artlink BBS

Modem: 503-735-4449

Location: Portland, OR

Cost: free

Artlink caters to a clientele of musicians, authors and artists. This board has its own Web home page (<http://www.europea.com/~luke/artlink.html>) and an interesting feature called Lofts. Lofts are private areas—like BBSs within a BBS—where artists can show their latest animation or QuickTime file, or play a sound clip.

BCS

Modem: 617-864-0712

Location: Boston, MA

Cost: free

BCS is a friendly and helpful board for novices. It also provides a lot of information about the Boston Computer Society. BCS doesn't claim to have global appeal, but if you live in Massachusetts, you couldn't ask for better than this.

Blues Cafe

Modem: 214-638-1186

Location: Dallas, TX

Cost: free 30-day access

The Blues Cafe offers 50 CD-ROMs of shareware (100,000 files), chat, e-mail, online games, adult files,

Usenet newsgroups and a one-month free trial account.

Whew! You'll want to check out the great graphics on this user-friendly BBS.

Maui Online

Modem: 808-661-9700

Location: Maui, HI

Cost: free

Whether you are planning a Hawaiian trip or just looking for a "virtual vacation," you'll find a lot of things to do here. There's a free GUI interface download, so you can check out gorgeous Maui graphics, look up information about dining and lodging, from low-budget to extravagant, and read articles by local writers. Information about land, sea and air activities is included, such as helicopter rides, beach rentals and whale watching. Aloha!

The Press Room

Modem: 703-631-5750

Location: Centreville, VA

Cost: \$5 per month for students; \$8 per month for basic BBS service; \$12.50 per month for full Internet access

This "premier electronic community of journalists" offers daily White House press schedules and transcripts, as well as a lot of industry news. The Journalist's Net Guide is offered online. Stop by and check it out; you can look around for free for 10 minutes.

Free BBSs

Whoever said "some of the best things in life are free" must have checked out these free BBSs. Many bulletin board systems are run by sysops who generally love what they are doing and want to share it with the whole world—at no cost. For other sysops, BBSs are a great hobby or passion. Whatever the case, free boards are definitely out there in cyberspace. They may be scattered or hidden among the "pay" BBSs of the world, so you might have to do a little digging to find them.

Here are five free bulletin board systems that are definitely worth checking out.

The Creative Edge

Modem: 203-743-4044

Location: Danbury, CT

Play a few games, read your e-mail offline or check out information about the Danbury Area Computer Society at this user-friendly BBS.

Infoport

Modem: 303-429-0291

Location: Denver, CO

If you want to talk politics, Infoport is the place for you. This "total political forum" offers 5,000 messages, 100 megabytes of files, tons of news information and useful data for those interested in the Colorado Chamber of Commerce. Sysops shouldn't miss the BBS operator support section.

Poetry in Motion

Modem: 212-666-6927

Location: New York, NY

Want to put some of your poetry online? Leave a parting quote on this board for other users to read and enjoy. Spectacular BBS graphics and bright colors describe Poetry in Motion to a tee. An offline mail reader is offered in case you are calling long distance.

Route 66 Multimedia BBS

Modem: 209-688-3842

Location: Tulare, CA

Route 66 Multimedia BBS is operated by a founding member of the Association of Online Professionals. This board

is undergoing an exciting project called **tulare.com**. The project's goal is to bring the Internet to Tulare, California, via this BBS. Keep your eyes open for some interesting changes.

Wizard's Gate BBS

Modem: 614-224-1635

Location: Columbus, OH

Visit the popular chat rooms to mingle with other peasants at the Wizard's Gate BBS. This board has a light medieval theme. If you don't enjoy chatting, you can check out *USA Today* online or download the many door games and files.

son's name, like Meg Ryan or Mel Gibson, and a match is provided by the database in less than 20 seconds. You can also catch up on the latest movie trivia. For instance, did you know that Stephen King played the priest in *Pet Semetary*? Or that 1,400 actresses were interviewed for the part of Scarlett O'Hara?

Every movie genre is covered, from horror to comedy. Don't forget to check out the movie reviews and top 10 videos.

The Nashville Exchange

Modem: 615-383-0727

Voice: 615-269-5221

Telnet: nashville.com

Location: Nashville, TN

Cost: \$34 for three months with 120 minutes per day and full Internet access

The Nashville Exchange possesses one of the most interesting online classified sections around. Some of the postings you'll likely see are from musicians looking for a gig or trying to sell equipment. So you never know if the "guitar for sale" ad that you see online belongs to a past, current or rising star. All types of music and artists are also discussed in the large music section.

You can also voice your opinions, questions and concerns to local politicians and TV and radio personalities in the TalkBack area.

PC Ohio

Modem: 216-381-3320

Voice: 216-291-3307

BBS Gateway: BBS Direct

Location: Cleveland, OH

Cost: \$52 per year

Planning a vacation? Don't leave home without using PC Ohio's Online Travel Database, which offers detailed information on hotels, resorts and attractions throughout the United States. Just type **travel** at the main menu prompt.

To catch up on your reading, stop by the file library and enjoy topics like genealogy, photography and

the law. Online sports, shopping and employment information is also available.

Software Creations

Modem: 508-368-7036

Voice: 508-368-1467

BBS Gateway: BBS Direct

Location: Clinton, MA

Cost: \$35 for six months with one hour of access per day

Software Creations is quite simply the best place for games and game-makers. This BBS also happens to be where the authors of these games hang out and where the latest games, such as ID, Apogee, Impulse and Gamer's Edge, are released.

If you ever tire of the games at Software Creations, which isn't likely, there's chat, online shopping and many help areas devoted to answering questions about downloading problems and shareware.

SonicNet

Modem: 212-431-1627

Voice: 212-941-5912

BBS Gateway: ADP AutoNet

Location: New York, NY

Cost: \$10 per month; first two weeks are free

This is an alternative music scene like you've never seen before. SonicNet is a special niche for people interested in alternative radio, music, bands and tours. Check out independent record labels, music clubs, advice from producers and other industry issues. Discussions cover a variety of topics, from books, movies and food to sex and politics.

Don't miss the scheduled, live conferences that feature various band members and the Mystery Melrose Theater, which allows *Melrose Place* lovers to watch the popular TV show and then vent online about its crazy plot twists.

Sounds of Silence BBS

Modem: 615-449-5969

Voice: 615-865-6000

BBS Gateway: SprintNet

Location: Nashville, TN

Cost: \$15 per month with full Internet access

Visitors will love the multitude of unusual features offered at the Sounds of Silence BBS. Have your tarot cards read online, chart your biorhythm and read or write stories in the Major Goose section. Local users can also take advantage of the Kroger Home Delivery service.

Starship II BBS

Modem: 201-935-1485

BBS Gateway: Global Access and ADP AutoNet

Location: Wharton, NJ

Cost: \$65 per year with a three-hour limit per day (includes full Internet access)

Phil Buomo, sysop at the Starship II BBS, readily admits that its members are the most popular feature of this board. "We have a nice community and a very friendly atmosphere. The experienced members are always willing to help new users navigate the board. The Starship is like an electronic version of *Cheers*. It's a place where everyone likes to go and everyone knows your name."

Keeping that in mind, it's no wonder that chatting is one of the Starship's main attractions. Each message conference is arranged by subject, with titles like Music, Lovers, Hobbies, Cooking and Computer/Technical. If you enjoy chatting, take a ride on the Starship II BBS.

Windows Online


Modem: 510-736-8343

Voice: 510-736-4376

BBS Gateway: BBS Direct

Location: Danville, CA

Cost: free 30-day account; \$69.95 per year

This BBS can only be described as Windows heaven. It features 74,000 WIN, OS/2 and DOS files; 2,000 conferences; 1,400 newsgroups; free online Windows magazines; a reading library; and a lot of help for novices. And, if that isn't enough to get your attention, you'll love the beautiful graphics that complement this one-of-a-kind place. 

Life Could Be Easier.

Are you still using all ten fingers to dial your favorite BBS? Having trouble finding a board that caters to your interests? Looking for a complete listing of boards in your area code?

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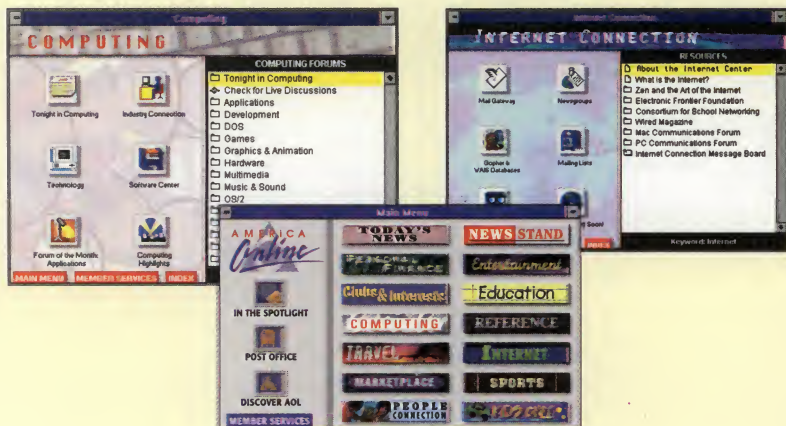
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Seek Professional Help!

Electronic mailing lists can provide you with solutions to your most perplexing business problems.

Illustration: Bud Peen



By Kathryn McCabe and Ray Archee

Industry veterans, high-priced consultants and brilliant academicians are only an e-mail message away. Yes, you can correspond with some of the best minds in your profession and get some priceless advice just by signing up with an electronic mailing list.

While the World Wide Web and Usenet newsgroups have attracted the attention of the media and the world, the old-fashioned electronic mailing list is still very much alive and has a great deal to offer online users. Even though mailing lists can focus on subjects as varied as the literary works of Jane Austen or basketweaving, many focus on business and professional topics. From agriculture and accounting to foreign trade and high-tech marketing, there is most likely a list to meet your occupational needs.

Mailing Lists

How Mailing Lists Work

With electronic mailing lists, everything is done via e-mail. A mailing list administrator sends electronic messages relating to a specific subject to the e-mail boxes of subscribers. To become a subscriber, you send an e-mail message requesting a subscription. Once you are on a list, you can also submit messages (via e-mail) to be distributed to the group.

The only real disadvantage to all this messaging is that you can end up paying a small fortune in online mail charges. Mailing list subscribers can receive hundreds of messages a month from a single list. This is something to keep in mind if you are on a service such as CompuServe that charges extra (15 cents a message) to deliver Internet mail.

Sound Business Advice

One benefit of being on a mailing list is that you can receive solutions to and advice about your business problems. A marketing manager on the High-Tech Marketing Communications (HTMARCOM) mailing list, for example, was concerned that his small company was charging customers \$30 for an evaluation copy of its latest software product. His fellow subscribers sent him e-mail with feedback and alternatives. One person suggested making the software available on the Internet or online services and then dropping the price of the demo to \$4.99 to cover shipping and handling. Another subscriber, who also thought \$30 was too high, suggested developing a multimedia simulation of the software to distribute to potential customers.

Mailing lists can also be a source of new business. Kim M. Bayne, founder and moderator of the HTMARCOM list, swears that the list has "kept her business alive." Once a struggling high-technology publicist, she has landed some of her biggest accounts by being visible on the Internet.

Subscribing to a List

Mailing lists are often viewed as complicated to use for two reasons. The first is that each mailing list usually has three key e-mail addresses—one for sub-

scribing and carefully follow the subscription directions.

Electronic lists can be administered either manually or with automated software programs, which is the second reason why mailing lists are considered difficult to use. Subscription procedures for manual lists vary slightly from those for automated lists. With an automated list, you need to type a specific message in the body (not the subject line) of the subscription request. The automated software program is designed to look for only that specific message and ignores

mail that does not contain it. Subscription requests for manual lists are handled by people and have looser requirements regarding the subscription request.

So how do you know if you have a manual or automated list? If there are instructions along with the subscription address like "SUBSCRIBE XYZLIST in text," you probably have an automated list and need to carefully follow those instructions. If there aren't any instructions, chances are you have a manual list. To subscribe to a manual list, send a regular e-mail message stating your request to subscribe, your name and e-mail address.

Choosing Lists

To find out whether there are any lists for your occupation or area of interest, check out several directories of mailings lists (called "lists of lists"), many of which are available online. One of the easiest directories to use is on a Web site maintained by Stephanie da Silva called Publicly Accessible Mailing Lists. You can access it by typing <http://www.neosoft.com/internet/paml> on your Web browser. The mailing lists on this



scribing/unsubscribing, one for posting messages that you want distributed to the group and one for general information. Many new online users have erroneously sent their subscription requests to the address for posting messages and, as a result, were never put on the list. To subscribe to a mailing list, make sure that you send messages to the correct

Web site can be displayed alphabetically or by subject.

This list is also available via ftp at [rtfm.mit.edu/pub/usenet-bygroup/news.answers/mail/mailling-lists](ftp://rtfm.mit.edu/pub/usenet-bygroup/news.answers/mail/mailling-lists) and in the **news.answers** newsgroup. A word of caution: This is a long document, so you should probably down-

load the text and browse it offline with a word processor.

Another definitive list of lists can be found via ftp at [ftp.sura.net/pub/mailling-lists](ftp://sura.net/pub/mailling-lists). It may also be obtained through e-mail by sending a message to mail-server@nisc.sri.com with **send netinfo/interest-groups** in the body of the message.

A hard copy, indexed version of these lists and other useful information are available in a book titled *Internet: Mailing Lists* edited by Hardie and Neou, Prentice Hall (ISBN 0-13-289661-3).

So join a mailing list and network with your fellow colleagues. Who knows? You may bolster your own career or help someone else's. **OA**

Sample Mailing Lists

To get an idea of the wide variety of mailing lists available, take a look at the following selection of eight professional mailing lists, covering subjects from agriculture to free trade. Each description includes two e-mail addresses. The first is the address to which you should send your subscription requests. To subscribe to the High-Tech Marketing Communications list, for example, send a message to listserv@rmii.com. The body (not the subject line) of that message should contain the words **SUBSCRIBE HTMARCOM** plus your e-mail address. The second address is where you can write for more information about the list. The e-mail address for posting messages to the list will be sent to you once you have successfully subscribed.

Agricultural Simulation Models (AGMODELS-L)

Subscribe: listserv@unl.edu (**SUB AGMODELS-L**, plus your name in body of message)

Information: Jerome Pier at jp@unl.edu

AGMODELS-L was created to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas pertaining to agricultural simulation models. Model users and developers are welcome. Any model, from simple spreadsheets to gargantuan, process-based FORTRAN code, is acceptable for discussion.

Cinema/Theater Managers or Employees

Subscribe: exhibitionists-request@jvnc.net

Information: exhibitionists-request@jvnc.net

Here's a place for cinema employees to hang out, trade information and exchange tricks-of-the-trade. Most of the members of this list are managers or projectionists.

Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI)

Subscribe: cei@digex.com

Information: cei@digex.com

CEI is a free-market research and advocacy group. This list focuses on the principles of free enterprise and limited government, including the reduction of regulatory barriers, the defense of free speech and the promotion of market solutions to environmental problems.

Economic Growth

Subscribe: majordomo@ufsia.ac.be

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Information: spicer@le.uwindsor.ca

Members of the ECDM mailing list discuss issues related to the design of environmentally friendly products, life-cycle analysis and industrial ecology.

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Information: listserv@rmii.com (**INFO HTMARCOM** in body of message)

The discussions on this mailing list, which range from basic how-to to high-level strategy analysis, cover the promotion of computer and

electronic products. For sample messages that have been posted to the list, check out HTMARCOM's Web site at <http://www.bayne.com/wolfBayne/htmarcom>.

Moonlighting From Home With Your Computer

Subscribe: listserv@netcom.com

(**SUBSCRIBE MOONLIGHT-L** in body of message)

Information: listserv@netcom.com (**INFO MOONLIGHT-L** in body of message)

Interested in making some extra cash on the side? Once a week, this free newsletter on moonlighting is sent out to list subscribers, along with a digest of messages. Topics include operating a business on a shoestring, starting up a business and dealing with home office issues.

OFFSHORE, an eJournal

Subscribe: offshore@dnai.com

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Information: arnie@dnai.com

OFFSHORE e-mail discusses the use of offshore structures, such as asset protection trusts, international business companies and limited liability companies. The mailing list also includes reviews of books, newsletters and seminars relating to offshore structures, tax havens and other related financial matters. Topics such as international fraud and financial scams are also covered.

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Modem Madness

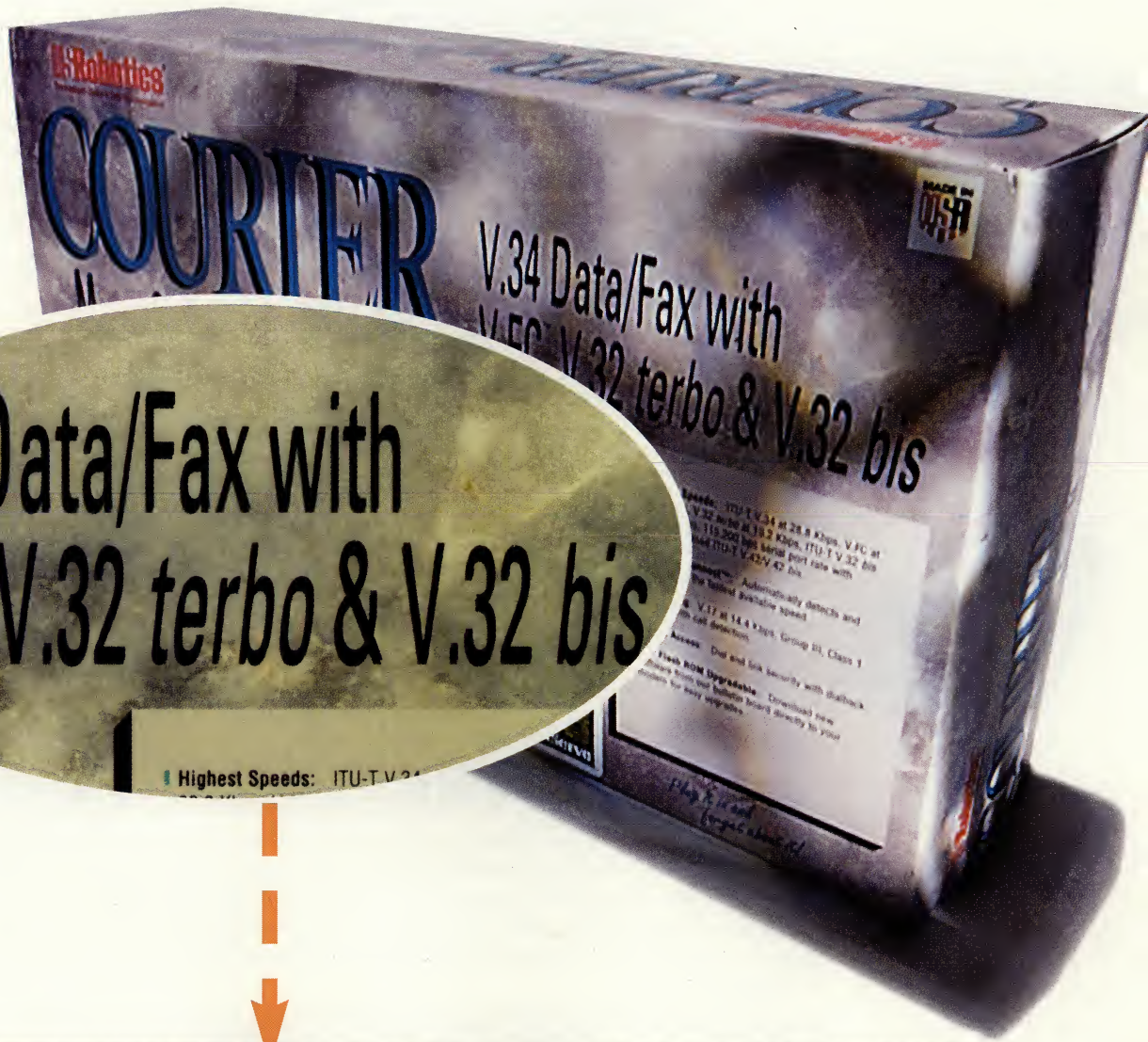
Don't be confused when buying a high-speed modem.

By **Stephanie Johnson**

V.34, Caller ID and 115,200 bps are typical terms found on modem boxes that can be confusing to prospective buyers. Here are some common questions and answers to help you understand this technical jargon and compare the various features of high-speed modems.

Photography: Blair Jensen





V.34 Data/Fax with V.FC™, V.32 terbo & V.32 bis

What do those V. numbers really mean?

Those V. numbers are industry standards that indicate modem speed. For example, the V.34 technical standard is equivalent to a 28.8 Kbps (28,800 bps) modem speed. **V.FastClass (V.FC)** modems, developed by Rockwell Telecommunications, also run at 28.8 Kbps. V.32bis modems run at 14.4 Kbps.

Keep in mind that a modem will always connect at slower speeds. For example, V.34 (28.8 Kbps) modems will connect with online services that run at only 14.4 Kbps.

Tips to Avoid Confusion

Here are a few things to remember when you're buying a modem:

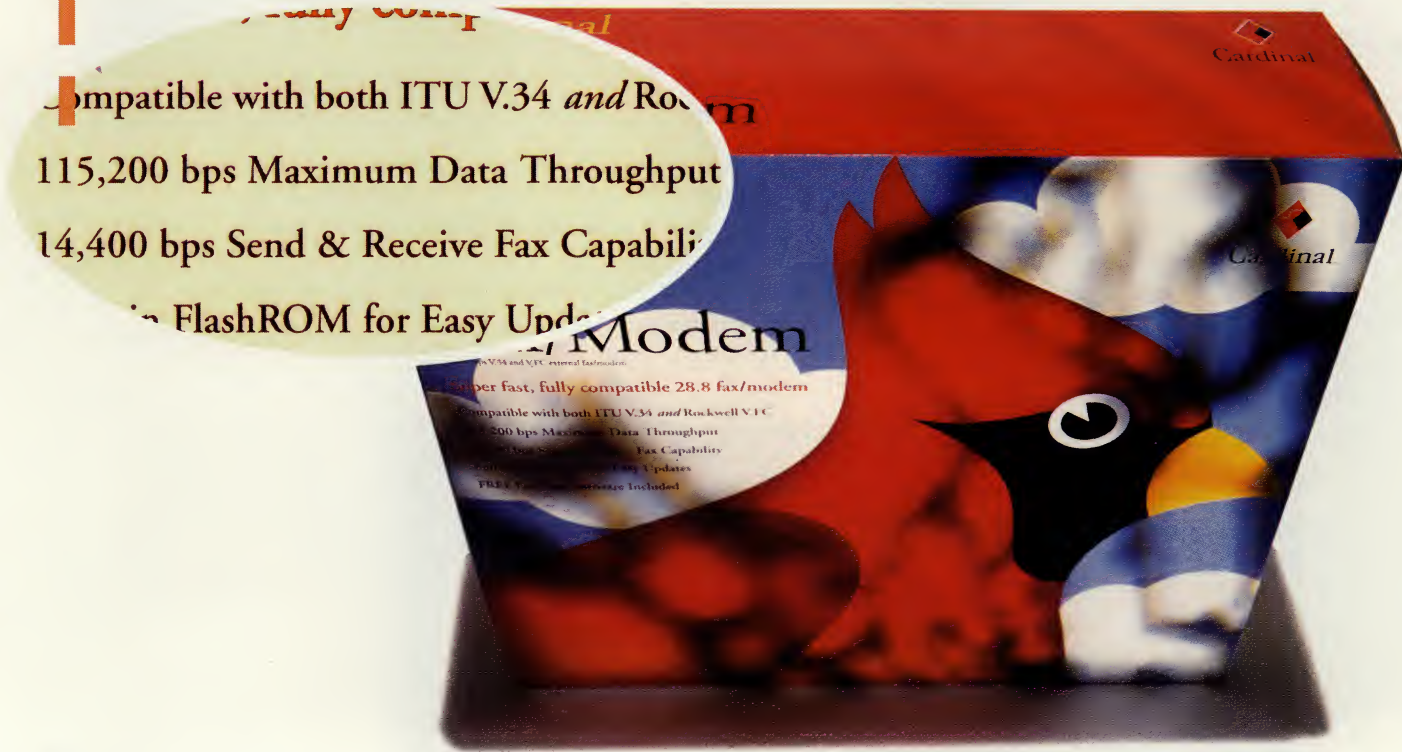
- A 28.8 Kbps (V.34) modem is the fastest speed widely available on the market.
- 14.4 Kbps is the maximum speed for faxing.
- Data compression (V.42bis) is a standard modem feature that you will find on all V.34 modems.
- Most modems include a five-year warranty.



115,200 bps—Wow! Is that faster than 28.8 Kbps?

No. **115,200 bps** (115.2 Kbps) does not refer to modem speed but rather to the amount of compressed data that a modem puts out and is able to store. (Data compression or “throughput” is a method of squeezing data or compacting information for faster transmission and less storage.) **V.42bis**, the latest industry data compression standard, squeezes data at a rate of four to one. A 28.8 Kbps (or V.34) modem, compressing data at a ratio of four to one, yields a maximum throughput of 115,200 bps.

Don't worry too much about data compression. Since V.42bis is a subset of the V.34 standard, all V.34 modems will automatically have the four-to-one data compression feature.





Can I use a cellular modem on my desktop?

No. A PCMCIA cellular modem is a card that must be inserted into a PCMCIA slot. It is found only on laptop computers.

Caller ID—know who's calling and who called

Distinctive ring—share a single phone line for data, fax and voice calls

Why would I want the Caller ID and Distinctive Ring features?

Caller ID identifies a sender by storing his or her modem number in the computer. While you're logged on to your telecommunications software, the sender's modem number will show up on your computer monitor so that you know who's trying to contact you. You must order the Caller ID service from your local phone company; be aware that some Caller ID services are limited to only your area code or state.

Distinctive Ring is beneficial to users who use one phone line for both their modem and their telephone because it differentiates a telephone call from a fax or data transmittal by the sound of the ring. The phone line is installed in the back of the modem so that all incoming calls initially register through the modem. If a fax or data ring occurs while you're using your telecommunications software, you can process it. Otherwise, the caller's data will be stored in your telecommunications software. All incoming voice calls ring your telephone. **OA**

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- A series of seminars covering copyright law, first amendment protections, pornography, privacy issues, slander and libel, and other legal issues that can affect your online business.

THE INTERNET CONNECTION

- Connecting your BBS to the Internet, providing Internet Access services, World Wide Web Server technology, designing World Wide Web documents, Internet e-mail, Domain Name Service, and much more. Increasingly the big end of the stick at ONE BBSCON with regards to new technology.

GOVERNMENT BULLETIN BOARDS

- Use of BBS and Internet technology to make government information available to the public - discussions and presentations by those that operate online services in government.

CORPORATE BBS APPLICATIONS

- An entire track of sessions by and for those in companies who operate bulletin boards to help fulfill the company's mission. Covers some of the unique aspects of PC communications in large organizations to disseminate information in house, to dealers, to vendors, and to the public.

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Mastering Home Electronics Online

Before you buy,
go online.

By George V. Hulme

Illustration: Alan Baseden



Thanks to VCRs, computers, CD players and other electronic gadgets, life has gotten more sophisticated (and often more complicated) than ever before. Although these electronic gadgets are designed to improve and simplify our lives, operating them usually requires a bit of knowledge and experience.

Until the day arrives when technology is really easy to use and actually simplifies our lives, you can find plenty of help online, if you know where to look. Nearly every online service and the Internet have places you can go to find the help you need to manage all the electronics in your life. Whether you're looking for the best pocket tape recorder or

researching high-end entertainment systems, you'll find someone online who's willing to help.

ADL's Gadget Guru and CE Forum

The Gadget Guru message board on America Online (keyword: **electronics**) can help you find answers to questions about car audio systems, VCRs, beepers, musical instruments, lasers, home security and, as if the world isn't getting wired enough, mind machines. If it takes batteries or you can plug it in, they're talking about it here. You may also want to give the Gadget Guru Archives a read if you want to brush up on any of the latest gadgets the Guru has reviewed.

America Online Gadget Guru area regular Ray Remen, who works as a technical producer for rock musicians in the Phoenix area, says, "Once in a while I get a question that stumps me—but not the millions of other online people. There's always someone out there who knows the answer to what I'm asking."

A new place to visit on America Online is the Consumer Electronics area (keyword: ce), where you'll discover frequently asked questions (FAQ) files, consumer electronic news and areas relating to the electronics of your car, home, personal communication devices and video games. There's also a conference area where discussions include virtually anything electronic, starting at 9 p.m. EST on Mondays and Thursdays. Check the posted conference schedule for details.

Electronic Experts on GENie

It'd be hard to imagine anything to do with consumer electronics without General Electric (GE) somewhere in the picture. GE's online service, GENie, hosts the Radio and Electronics RoundTable (page 345), where sysops, topic leaders and RoundTable (RT) regulars discuss virtually anything you can listen to, play, record, communicate with or add security to.

The RT often features real-time, how-to conferences where users get opportunities to interact with many knowledgeable experts. The library files contain software and text files that provide useful tips for buying products or getting the most out of the ones you own.

"The Radio and Electronics RoundTable is loaded with helpful people. If you know nothing about home electronics, this is definitely the place to go," says chief sysop Glen Johnson.

GENie sysop Mike Nassour says that online services offer a great source of unbiased information. "I've been deeply involved in consumer electronics since the late '60s, and the changes in marketing and construction that I've seen have been nothing less than astounding. Given the fact that today's equipment is too complicated for hobbyists to repair, I find any new source of information to be essential."

CompuServe's Audio Forum

If you're trying to eke out a few more years from your eight-track cassette player or you're searching for the latest scoop about new audio technologies, then you'll feel at home

in the Consumer Electronics Audio Forum on CompuServe (go **ceaudio**). The forum has libraries stuffed with information on almost anything that produces, plays, edits or amplifies sound and music.

Philip Lipper knew nothing about large-screen TVs when he first joined CompuServe's Audio Forum. "The information I received from people on the forum ranged from personal accounts to actual reviews of big-screen TVs. Since there are several people on the forum who write for video or audio

magazines, users often have the opportunity to read a magazine article and then ask the author a question about it."

According to Lipper, it's not only the expert advice that's valuable but also the hundreds of regular users that jump in with their ideas and experiences. "This gives me the ability to poll hundreds of users at once," Lipper says.

Robert Walker, engineer, electrical contractor and CompuServe regular, often lends his expertise to others in the message threads and seeks information for his own projects. "Recently I researched low-end voice mail systems that could be

used to upgrade my current setup," Walker says. "The responses I received included suggestions for different equipment as well as a referral to a helpful telecommunications forum. Here I found other users discussing the equipment they own. Some users even e-mailed me their phone numbers so I could check the quality of their voice mail firsthand."

Audio enthusiast Joel Bondy uses CompuServe's electronic forum to get a feel for what people think about the equipment they've purchased to help him make smarter buying decisions. "I believe the true value of an audio component becomes more apparent after one has lived with it for awhile. After the blush of the new pride of ownership wears off, it's then that you get great information about audio equipment," says Bondy.

Mobile Music on the 'Net

If you enjoy listening to your favorite tunes in the car, stop by the Car Audio home page (<http://www.ksu.ksu.edu/~spdtrap/caraudio/CarAudio.html>) the next time you're cruising the 'Net. Here you'll find links to various car audio sites. For instance, you can browse through *Car Audio Online* magazine, check out audio reviews and electronic equipment suppliers or link to the Unofficial USD Audio Home Page, which provides detailed information on electronic car audio



equipment, such as subwoofers and WaveGuides. If you can't find the the mobile music information you're looking for here, chances are you won't find it anywhere.

VCRs and Videos

If your idea of a great weekend is fast pizza delivery and two fists full of videos, then the CompuServe Consumer Electronics Video Forum (go **cevideo**) is a must-stop for you. The forum, which has 15 active sections with hundreds of messages, offers the latest on video systems, from basic VCRs to home satellite systems. You'll also find a few major video equipment manufacturers participating here with FAQ files explaining their newest products. The forum's library provides software to help you organize your video collection, as well as files that will help you prevent your VCR from eating your favorite tapes and rid you of other pesky problems related to TVs, VCRs and home entertainment systems.

Tips From the Pros

All the sysops and forum regulars I spoke with say that it's best to be as specific as possible when going online with a question. "It's much more helpful to state the equipment you're using and exactly what you're trying to do with it

when a problem occurs rather than saying something general like 'How do I get rid of the hum in my audio system?'" advises CE Audio sysop E. Brad Meyer.

Before the online clock starts ticking, take a few notes about your problem and equipment before posting your message. Be sure to mention the make, model and age of your equipment. People will be more willing to help if they don't have to ask you a series of questions first. Being specific will also help you make more of your time online and save you money on your next online bill.

Maybe the day will soon arrive when all VCRs and stereos come equipped with voice recognition so that all you'll have to do is talk into them to program them. But until that day, it should be reassuring to know there are plenty of folks online who can help you sort things out. The next time the power fails, setting the time on your VCR and microwave will be as easy as flipping on a light switch. **OA**

*George V. Hulme is a freelance writer based in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who often writes about business and technology issues. He can be reached on CompuServe at 71165,1144 or on America Online at **GeoHulme**.*

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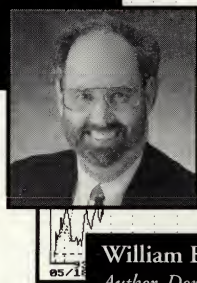
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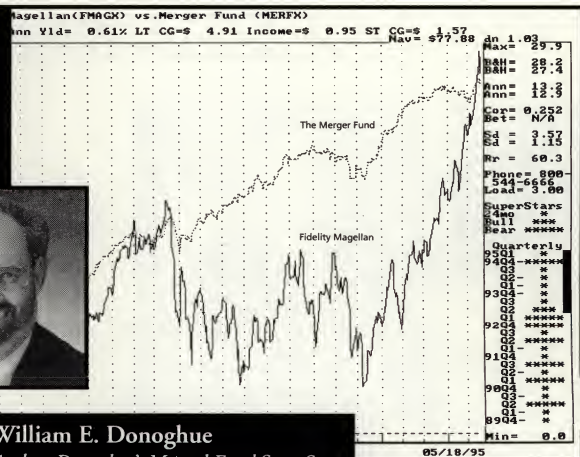
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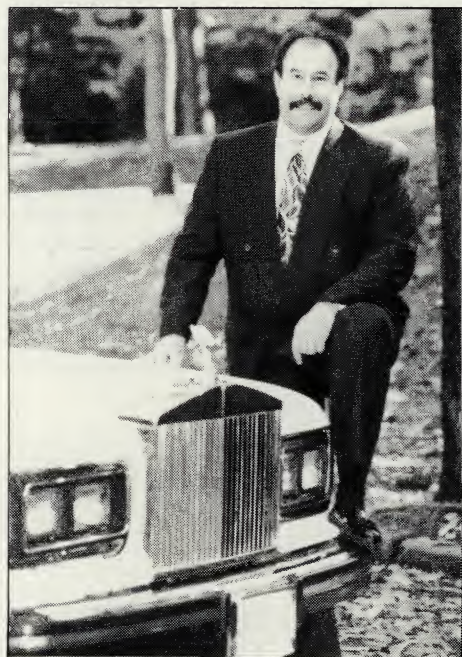
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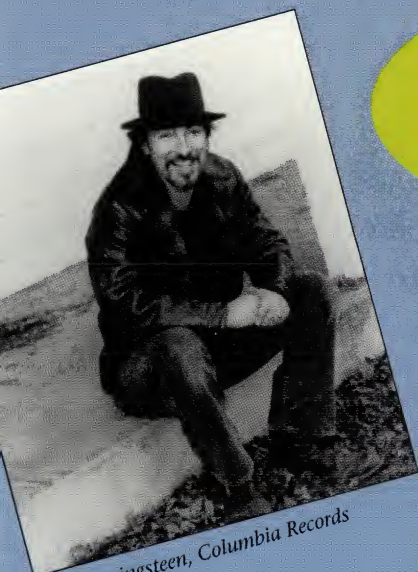
Van Halen, Warner Bros. Records



Ned's Atomic Dustbin, Columbia Records

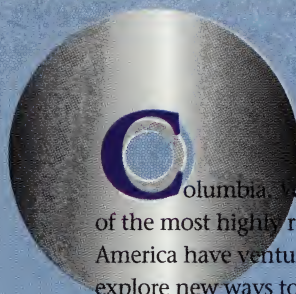
TOP Record Companies Follow a New CYBERBEAT

By Robin Blakely Economu

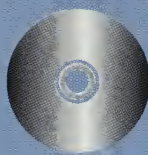


Bruce Springsteen, Columbia Records

Music fans are finding some of America's most popular recording artists on the Internet.



Columbia, Warner Bros. Geffen. Three of the most highly respected record houses in America have ventured into cyberspace to explore new ways to swap information between musicians and music fans around the world. How are these multimillion-dollar businesses making themselves known on the Internet? Each company's behind-the-scenes approach to being online is as distinctive as its record label.



Sony's Columbia Records

"I love the fast-paced environment of the Internet," says Mark Ghuneim, vice president of video promotions at Columbia Records. "To me, this is like television beginning in the 1950s all over again. It's really that exciting. And we're thrilled to be a part of it."

Ghuneim talks about online issues with an excitement that is genuinely contagious. Describing his company's approach to online, he says, "We're striving to develop a site that uses material to spark the interest of fans."

For more information about Columbia's recording artists, go to Sony's home page at <http://www.sony.com> and click on the On Music icon. The WireTap and Daily Dish areas provide music fans with information about special contests, such as designing promo T-shirts for their favorite bands, as well as new releases, artist trivia and more.

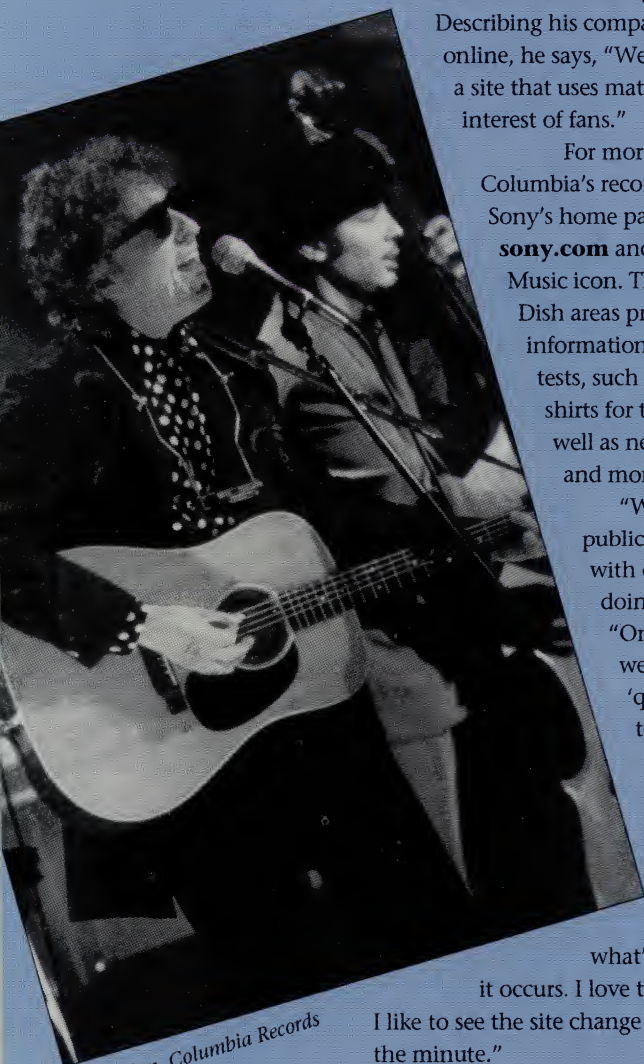
"We want to involve the public as much as possible with everything we're doing," Ghuneim says.

"One of the special things we do is use lots of 'quick takes' to keep in touch. I often take

photos of recording artists taping videos, and then that same day, I'll scan the images online so our fans can see what's happening almost as it occurs. I love to keep things moving.

I like to see the site change by the time of day, by the minute."

Ghuneim also emphasizes that Columbia likes to do special things for its online fans, such as giving away front-row tickets to see Bob Dylan. He says, "We want some exclusive rewards given to those who are out there with us."



Bob Dylan, Columbia Records



Joni Mitchell, Warner Bros. Records

Warner Bros. Records

Todd Steinman, the online and new media director at Warner Bros. Records, has an underscored enthusiasm and a direct approach to his company's involvement online. "This is the first time many of the recording artists have had such direct contact with their fans. It's incredibly exciting. We post tour dates, album reviews, news releases and lots of publicity photos. We really enjoy the interaction with the public. Right now we're even busy developing Web sites for Van Halen and Peter, Paul & Mary."

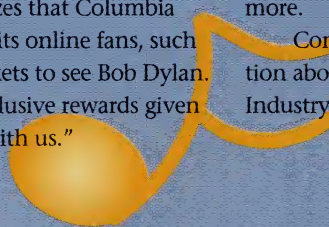
According to Steinman, the Information Superhighway is the perfect avenue for fans to preview videos and artwork and to keep up with behind-the-scenes information about their favorite bands. "Cyberspace is where we exchange special items that can't be offered elsewhere," he says.

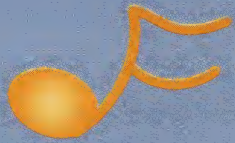
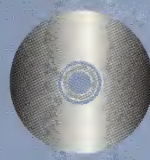
"I think this is about connectivity. In this new electronic community, I see both the need to reach the world and the need to celebrate at home. We're able to transcend great distances and to maintain warmth."

— Noel Paul Stookey of Peter, Paul & Mary

Besides being on the Internet, Warner Bros. is also on America Online and CompuServe. Warner's live online talk show, Cyber-Talk, is on America Online (keyword: **warners**) every Monday from 9:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. EST. The show hosts such guests as Peter, Paul & Mary, Van Halen, Joni Mitchell, Elvis Costello and many others. The area also provides postings and discussions about Warner Bros. artists, fan clubs, tour schedules, music samples, band logos and more.

CompuServe members can access information about Warner Bros. artists on the Recording Industry Forum (keyword: **wbrecords**).





Geffen Records

Jim Griffin, director of technology at Geffen Records, is a dynamic mix of high energy, focused intelligence and good humor. He describes his complex job in the simplest of terms: "It's my mission to bring the Information Superhighway to Geffen and to bring Geffen to the Superhighway."

When Griffin discusses his company's approach to the Internet, he says, "We love interacting with fans, but right now we're working on empowering all the people who work here to get involved in what's happening online. We're not just paying lip service to the value of online like a lot of record companies. All of our employees are really out there surfing the 'Net. We want them to become good citizens, not lurkers and not marketers."

Geffen Records' Web site (<http://www.geffen.com>) features pictures, sounds, bios and video clips, as well as contests and live interviews with band members. You can even order your favorite CD online. (Go to Links into Cyberspace and click on CD Now—The Internet Music Store.)

CompuServe members can also access information about Geffen's recording artists by going to the Recording Industry Forum (keyword: **geffen**).

Griffin continues: "I believe that online is creating a renaissance of creative expression for artists. It's the future."

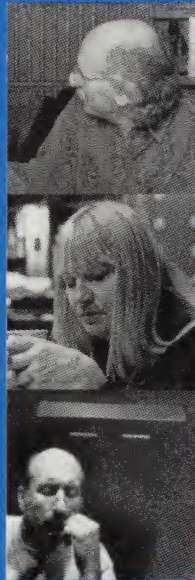
"Right now, so many people are excited about the capabilities that there's a rush to entertain people in every way possible. That rush for entertainment is driving technology into new

areas, building the infrastructure of the Superhighway. Once that road is built, it will be used for other things besides entertainment, like education and health care," he says. **OA**



Van Halen, Warner Bros. Records

Peter, Paul & Mary in Cyberspace



The traditional world of folk music meets the high-tech world of cyberspace.

Loved by millions of fans worldwide, Peter, Paul & Mary have achieved living-legend status as the cultural barometers of four generations. Now, the famous folk-singing trio is celebrating its 35th anniversary with an exciting musical release called "Lifelines" and a new multimedia venture into cyberspace led by a member of the trio, Noel Paul Stookey.

With an active interest in computers, communications technology and the exploration of cyberspace, Stookey has been instrumental in introducing Peter Yarrow, Mary Travers and many of the group's musician friends to online BBSs and the Internet.

Paul's Solo Cyber-Roots

A computer buff since 1983, Stookey is an online pioneer who currently spends over an hour each night taking care of business back at his BBS in Maine. Called the Celebration Station or CeleStat (207-667-0800, modem), Stookey's BBS has grown from a two-line bulletin board into an amazing, 26-line service with over 900 users over the past 10 years.

Stookey laughs when he recalls the growing pains. "I have to admit that I got a little nervous at one point. You see, we have what we call coffee clatches with all the people involved integrally on the bulletin board. About a year ago I remember saying, 'Hey, the Internet is here and it looks to me like we're going to get blown out of the water.' Well, a couple of the more prevailing wisdoms said, 'No, no, no. You don't get it, do you? We love to come to this board. People are calling in from the outside so that they can have a more intimate community.'"

Recently, CeleStat began providing its members with access to the Internet through a local call. Stookey is pleased about the new benefits. "I think it's important to have the intimacy of the BBS along with access to the world. The balance between the two is what's so significant."

Through Warner Bros., Stookey is now developing a Web site for Peter, Paul & Mary (<http://www.magick.net/~ppm>). "We were surprised to discover that so many of our fans are already on the Internet," says Stookey. "Right now, just about everybody is putting up a home page and, frankly, we're no exception. We'll cover all the basic information about what the group is up to, the discography, the tour schedule and more." Stookey pauses, then pride and excitement fill his voice. "But, we're also doing some really fun stuff for our fans, too."



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Hazardous to Your Health?

Here's how to **prevent** and **cure** computer-related health disorders.

By Naomi Kogan Dein

After spending time online, do you find yourself suffering from headaches? Sore wrists? Neck and shoulder pain? If so, you may be one of the growing number of people affected by computer-related ailments.

In a 1993 U.S. Bureau of Labor survey of repetitive motion illness cases, nearly 14.3 percent—13,510 cases—were linked to data and key entry. Some of these maladies—like carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS)—have made themselves well known in the popular press. Others—like de Quervain's dis-

ease—are virtual unknowns. Whether you've heard of them or not, however, you should be aware that if you spend any amount of time in front of a computer, you are susceptible to them.

What can you do to protect yourself? In addition to a myriad of ergonomic, computer-related products that you can buy, simply being aware of the causes, symptoms and risk factors involved, along with taking proactive approaches, can help you stay healthy while online.

Computer Health Hazards

Maladies of the Information Age

Dubbed by OSHA (the Occupational Safety and Health Administration) as the "occupational disease of the 1990s," cumulative trauma disorder (CTD)—also known as repetitive motion illness—is an injury that results from repeated stress to a particular body part, such as the back, hand or wrist. Therefore, if you use a keyboard, CTD could very well strike you. Unlike other muscle fatigue, CTD doesn't simply go away if you rest for awhile. If left untreated, some CTDs can be debilitating, requiring sufferers to use anti-inflammatory drugs or even to undergo surgery.

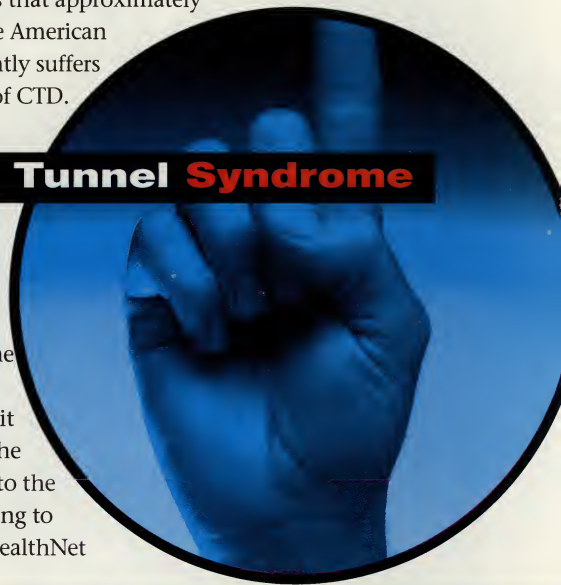
The publication *CTD News* estimates that 14 to 18 million cases—reported and unreported—of CTD occur in the United States every year. (This estimate includes back injuries that result from repetitive tasks.)

Cathy Roble, a marketing communications specialist at Ergodyne, a St. Paul, Minnesota-based developer of training

programs, ergonomic office accessories and personal support products, reports that approximately 63 percent of the American workforce currently suffers from some sort of CTD.

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) is a nerve disorder resulting from injury of the median nerve at the point where it passes through the wrist on its way to the forearm. According to CompuServe's HealthNet



Stretch, Two, Three, Four

From stretching to limbering up, there are many simple exercises that you can do—at or near your computer—to prevent or reduce the threat of CTS and other repetitive strain injuries. Ergodyne even makes WorkSmart® stretch software for Windows users, which provides step-by-step instructions on various muscle exercises.

The American Physical Therapy Association, based in Alexandria, Virginia, suggests the following simple carpal tunnel syndrome-prevention exercises you can do at your computer:



Tightly clench your hand and release, fanning out your fingers each time. Repeat five times.



Rest your forearm on the edge of the desk. Grasp the fingers of one hand with the other, gently bending back the wrist. Hold for five seconds.



Gently press your hand against a firm, flat surface, stretching your fingers and wrist. Hold for five seconds.



Illustrations: Kate Marion

database (go **hnt**), repeated use of the wrist and hand is a common cause of CTS. Poor posture and awkward wrist and hand positioning are also to blame.

Typical CTS symptoms include pain and tingling in the first three fingers, aching wrists, numbness, soreness in the hands and wrists, and weakening/shrinking of the thumb muscles.

Other CTOs Although carpal tunnel syndrome is one of the better known computer-related repetitive strain injuries, there are many others:

Cervical Disc Syndrome: If you sit with your neck in one position for long periods of time, watch for symptoms of this CTD, which include pain, numbness and muscular spasm as a result of the pinching of the cervical nerves (in the neck) by compressed discs.

de Quervain's disease: A chronic inflammation of the muscle and tendon on the side of the wrist and base of the thumb, de Quervain's disease sufferers experience pain, tingling and numbness when moving their thumbs.

Epicondylitis: Better known as tennis elbow, this affliction is caused by repeated, tense or jerky movements and improper posture. Sufferers may feel soreness, a burning sensation and/or inflammation in the forearm.

Rotator Cuff Injury: This repetitive strain injury may be to blame if you experience limited motion and pain in the shoulder. The disorder results when one or more of the four rotator cuff tendons is inflamed.

Tendinitis: Repetitive motions, bending the wrist forward and backward and poor posture can cause this tendon disorder. As a result, sufferers may experience weakness or tenderness in the hand, elbow or shoulder.

Other Exercises You Can Do at Your Computer



High-reach stretch: Raise your arms, spread your fingers, reach as high as you can and hold for five seconds. Relax and repeat.

Wrist-flexor stretch: Place your palms together, keeping your fingers at chin level. Push your right fingers against your left fingers. Hold for ten seconds, relax and then reverse.



Head and neck turns: Turn your head to one side, hold for three seconds. Turn your head to other other side, hold for three seconds. Repeat three times.



Shoulder roll: Roll your shoulders forward three times in a circular motion. Then roll your shoulders backward three times.



Computer Health Hazards



Vision-Related Maladies

Based on data put out by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in 1991, computer-related eyestrain was a complaint of 88 percent of people who worked—or played—at computers for more than three hours a day. Some of the symptoms of eyestrain include headaches, tired or burning eyes, double vision, loss of focus and/or blurred vision—troublesome and sometimes serious conditions faced by people who spend hours each day in front of a computer monitor.

Why are computer users especially susceptible to eyestrain? Duane A. Perkinson, a computer ergonomics specialist for VDT Solution in St. Charles, Illinois, explains that reading words on a computer screen—rather than on a printed page—is much more difficult and demanding because the letters don't form perfect points. Instead, each letter is a series of dots or pixels.

To make matters worse, the dots are bright at the center and grow dimmer at the edges, according to John Torrey, vice president of operations for the Lake Oswego, Oregon-based

PRIO Corporation. As a result, we don't have "sharp-edged visual information" that we need to focus correctly, according to Torrey. Ultimately, because we're constantly readjusting our eyes, eyestrain results.

Ways to Prevent Computer-Related Health Disorders

There are many commonsense things that you, as a computer user, can do to prevent or lessen the effects of computer-related health problems.

Protect Your Eyes To minimize physical eyestrain, start by adjusting your computer equipment and accessories. For example, monitors should be positioned to minimize glare and reflection from lights, windows and other light sources. Also, make sure that your document holder is close to the screen and at the same level and distance from your eyes to avoid having to constantly change your focus.

Although minimizing glare on your computer screen and using proper lighting can help reduce computer-related eyestrain, PRIO's Torrey notes that these measures may not be enough. "Wearing special eyeglasses may be necessary," he says. Such glasses are prescribed by eye doctors who utilize the testing technology developed by PRIO and are used only when working—or playing—at the computer.

Torrey also suggests that you refocus your eyes in order to give them a break. Don't forget to look away from your

Ergonomics: The Buzz Word of the '90s

Everyone's talking about ergonomics these days, but what exactly is it? Ergonomics is a Greek term meaning "the laws of work." Adapting work areas, equipment and techniques so they are compatible to people, ergonomics seeks to fit the job and environment to the person, not the other way around.

Here are some companies that specialize in ergonomically designed products and accessories for home and small offices:



Ergodyne's WorkSmart® products include ergonomically designed keyboard and mouse wrist rests, footrests and stretch software.

Ergodyne
1410 Energy Park Dr.
Suite One
St. Paul, MN 55108
800-225-8238, voice

Ergodyne offers a variety of training programs, office accessories and personal support products, including the Ergodyne WorkSmart® adjustable footrest (\$59.95); adjustable keyboard wrist rest (\$24.95 to \$31.95); and stretch software (\$39.95).



The SoHo Chair provides support and relief for the back.

The Knoll Group
105 Wooster St.
New York, NY 10012
800-445-5045, voice

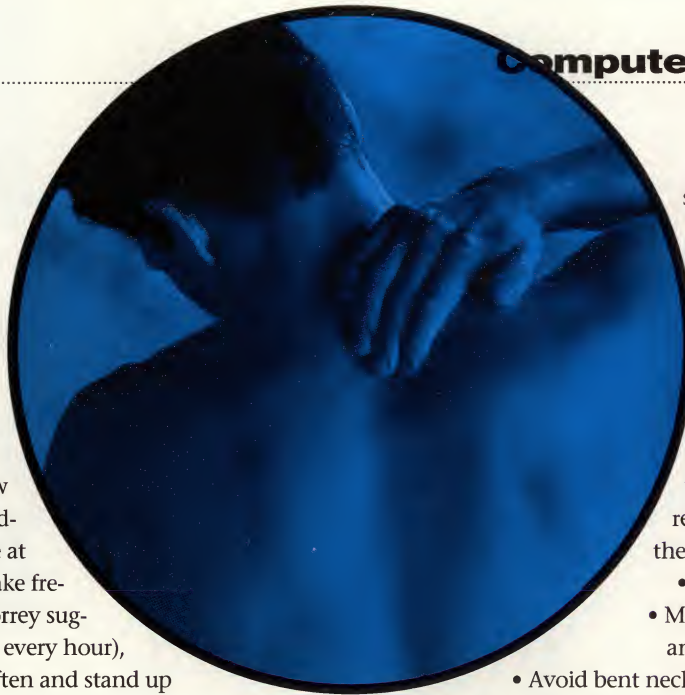
The SoHo Chair, made by The Knoll Group and designed by Italian industrial designers Roberto Lucci and Paolo Orlandini, offers tilt tension adjustment and upright tilt lock for fixed back support. The chair, which costs \$399, comes with a five-year warranty.

monitor every 10 to 15 minutes and focus for 5 to 10 seconds on a distant object. Such breaks prevent "fixed gaze," which is common among regular computer users, according to Torrey.

Position Yourself

Correctly When you know you're going to be spending a few hours or more at your computer, try to take frequent breaks (PRIO's Torrey suggests a 15-minute break every hour), change your position often and stand up or stretch when you start to feel tired.

While posture may not be something that you normally think about as you sit at your computer, being aware of how you sit—and correcting your posture if necessary—can do wonders for your online health. OSHA recommends that wrists should stay in a neutral position, and feet should rest flat on the floor (or a footrest should be used). OSHA also promotes the use of a backrest for supporting the lumbar area of the back and notes that the head should be straight and balanced over the spine when looking at the computer screen.



Another way to alleviate physical strain at the computer is to adjust your computer equipment and furniture. OSHA suggests, for example, that the height of your chair's seat should allow your arms and hands to comfortably reach the keyboard.

Use Common Sense What other commonsense measures can you take to prevent computer-related injury? Ergodyne suggests the following:

- Sit in an upright position.
- Make sure you have adequate knee and leg room.
- Avoid bent neck positions for long periods of time.
- Look away from the screen and blink often.
- Close your eyes frequently.
- Relax your upper body muscles.
- Practice deep breathing.

Whether you spend a few minutes a week or five hours a day online, you can protect yourself against computer-related health problems. Just be aware of the hazards and be ready to make adjustments. Proper precautions will help you make the most of your time online. **OA**



Navigator's office desk system can be set up even for lefties.

Navigator Systems

4210 Holden St.
Emeryville, CA 94608
510-653-9385, voice
800-653-6280, voice

Navigator Systems' ergonomic, fully adjustable and expandable desk system can be assembled for left-handers or right-handers and retails for \$600.

SOHO Computer Furniture

729 Boylston St., 4th floor
Boston, MA 02116
800-299-SOHO, voice

The SOHO Adjustable Computer Table can be easily adjusted with the company's patented Slide-and-Lock mechanism by just turning two knobs. The desk, which costs \$299, features a tiltable keyboard shelf and comes with a one-year warranty.



SOHO's Adjustable Computer Table features a tiltable keyboard.

Editor's

Choice

By Carol Freer and Brenda Kukla



Bewitched's Elizabeth Montgomery: A tribute
JUNE 5, 1995 \$2.95

People

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Multimedia on the 'Net

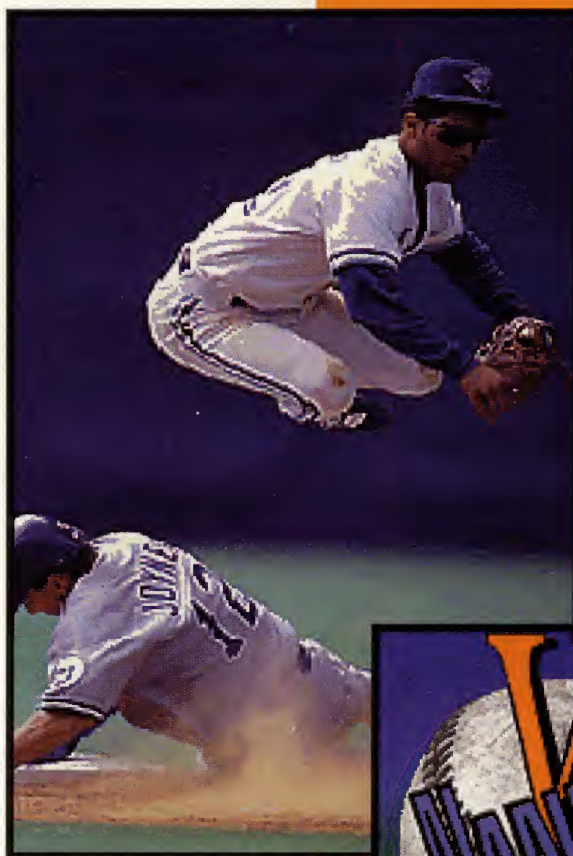
You would be surprised at the many multimedia sites available on the 'Net. In this month's Editor's Choice, you will find 51 Internet sites with film, video, animation, graphics, sound tracks, musical scores, vocals, sound effects and dialogue available online. Here you will find home movies and clips of Hollywood's finest films, recordings of Pat Metheny's jazz and "Nyuk, Nyuk" by Curly of the Three Stooges. Fire up your computer and enjoy the sights and sounds of the 'Net!



2

Sports Online

Sports fans, get off of the couch and onto the 'Net! Whether you've got hoop dreams or football fantasies, your favorite sports are online! Editor's Choice rounds up 38 sites for sports enthusiasts. Discuss game outcomes, check on your favorite teams, voice your opinions, gather season statistics and more. Don't get left on the bench—join the online game!



3

New Age Online

We've consulted our crystal ball and found 34 New Age sites in your online future. If you're interested in tarot cards and crystals or you follow the occult and paganism, you'll find resources here that cover every aspect of the New Age movement.





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Multimedia

Multimedia

The Internet is full of sights and sounds. Multimedia technology brings the music and video of radio, television and the theater to our home computers. Visit the following sites for voice, sound and music clips taken from various movies, musicals, television programs, recording artists and everyday life.

ABC Online

America Online: keyword **abc**

Click on the ABC News icon and enjoy the video archives of 5- to 18-second movies showing historical events and soundbytes. You'll find a collection of show themes and animation, as well as video clips of recent earthquakes, hurricanes and natural disasters.

alt.binaries.multimedia

Usenet: **alt.binaries.multimedia**

Download pictures and battle scenes from the popular *Star Trek* series and motion pictures. Some current questions deal with QuickTime and AVI files.

The American Oldies Diner—Celebrating 1955 to 1970

CompuServe: keyword **oldies**

CompuServe members can discuss oldies music, automobiles and fashion. The forum promises to fill its library with radio jingles as well as full-motion video. For example, you can download a 1966 jingle from Chicago's Great WCFL Top 40 Radio in .WAV file format.

Annotated Grateful Dead Lyrics

Web: <http://www.uccs.edu/~ddodd/gdhome.html>

For die-hard Deadheads, David Dodds, creator of this site, has analyzed the lyrics of 37 Grateful Dead songs, noting literary allusions and references to children's nursery rhymes. You'll find eight thematic essays on the lyrics and a complete Grateful Dead discography.

Aquila BBS

Modem: 708-820-8344

Chicago's Aquila BBS boasts over 18 subdirectories for sound files in .CMF, .MID, .WAV, .MOD, .ROL and .VOC formats. Listen to audio files of instrumental music, popular songs, theme music and sound effects. Multimedia utilities, such as voice editors and sound drivers, and forum discussions about sound and multimedia are also available. Aquila BBS membership fees are \$8.95 per month or \$75 per year.

Bad Brains

Web: <http://www.computel.com/~whatsup/brains/>

Bad Brains is a band that thanks Madonna "for providing the vision and cash to reassemble the greatest Rasta hardcore act ever." If you've never heard of the band, you soon will when you log on to their very own Web page. Listen to audio samples of the band's new album *God of Love*, and then e-mail the Brains and tell them what you think of it. There is also a list of concert dates and cities as well as front and inside cover art of the new album.

B.A.W.P (Best Audio World Pusillades)

Web: <http://www.cs.brown.edu/fun/bawp>

Listen to entire poems recited by the writers on this Web page. Links to various music and sound-related sites are also listed.

Classical MIDI Archives

Web: <http://www.hk.net/~prs/midi.html>

At this Web site, you can either download or listen to all kinds of classical music MIDI sequences from composers such as Beethoven and Bach. Visitors are encouraged to submit their own classical music entries as well.

Collection of Movie Sounds

Web: <http://wc62.residence.gatech.edu/coop/home.html>

This Web page has a lot to offer cybersurfers—music, movies, books and many great links to other fun sites. The page takes some time to download, but it's definitely worth the wait. Download sound files from movies such as *Blue Velvet*, *Blade Runner* and *So I Married An Axe Murderer*. Fans of the television series *Twin Peaks* will love this site where they can hear the entire theme song and find links to other *Twin Peaks* Web pages.

comp.multimedia

Usenet: **comp.multimedia**

Posted in this newsgroup are items for sale and information about multimedia courses and video seminars. Find good tips and free advice about sound cards, sound blasters and sound-editor software.

Composers' Coffeehouse

America Online: keyword **composers**

Composers' Coffeehouse is a forum for anyone interested in making music. Artists upload their work onto the Coffeehouse for others to critique. If you're looking for a large, eclectic sampling of sound clips, you've come to the right place. Enjoy rock, classical and banjo music, or listen to a clip of a 15-year-old playing his harpsichord.

CTDNet Gallery (Collections of Writings & Art by K-12 Students)

Web: <http://ctdnet.acns.nwu.edu/supp/creative.html>

Submit your stories, poems, music (performed or composed), photographs and artwork to the CTDNet Gallery. You can also view QuickTime and MPEG movies by other students.

The Darkest of the Hillside Thickets

Web: <http://haven.uniserve.com/~puck/thickets.html>

A small site with a big sense of humor, this home page for the Canadian band The Darkest of the Hillside Thickets has samples and a tour schedule worth taking a look at. The band plays unwholesome, punky surf tunes with lyrics revolving around the content of author H.P. Lovecraft's novels. The site is linked to other Lovecraft-oriented sites and to the Horror Web Page.

Drum Corps Sound

Web: <http://lal.cs.byu.edu/dci/aus.html>

Listen to the beat of several different drummers on this musical Web page. You can download sound files of marching drum corps or link to the Drum Corps Online



A Celebration of Women's History

If you're interested in learning more about women's history, literature and art, look no further. These subjects are brought to life by Jocelyn Riley, the producer/author of 15 informational videos and resource guides. Since 1986, Riley has been documenting women's history in intelligent, moving videos that possess a distinct, feminine flair. The videos and guides, perfect for classrooms and museums, have also received national acclaim, including a gold medal from the International Film & Video Festival of New York and a certificate of commendation from the American Association for State and Local History. The latest video, entitled *Women in Construction*, has already earned the American Library Association Award.

Visit this Web site at <http://netopia.com/herwords> for brief descriptions on the collection of Her Own Words' videos, including *Prairie Quilts* and *Sisters & Friends: Winnebago Women's Stories*, which features stories of love and laughter told by six American Indian women.

home page for a list of the Drum Corps International Tour Shows. Also available is a list of the top 25 corps from 1972 through 1979—a drummer's delight!

ECM Records

Web: <http://www.ecmrecords.com>

ECM is home to some familiar jazz greats—Chick Corea, Keith Jarrett and Pat Metheny—and to some not-so-familiar names, including The Danish Concert Radio Orchestra. Posted are ECM artists' new releases and tour dates. Order the artists' CDs online and have them shipped to your home. While most of the artists are jazz musicians, there is a sizable collection of classical and international music as well.

Entertainment Drive Movie Forum

CompuServe: keyword **edrive**

Anyone with an interest in the movies will enjoy this forum. The library sections feature full-motion video and

audio from actual movie scenes, complete with production notes and bios of key players. To help make your selection, many of the files are grouped by genre, such as Thriller/Mystery, Drama, Comedy and Fantasy/Sci-Fi.

EXTRA

America Online: keyword **extra**

This hot spot promises "entertainment from the inside." *Extra*, the weekly magazine TV show, offers viewers news about shows, movies, music, television and pop culture online. Click on Multimedia to download clips from behind-the-scenes videos or interactive media kits from specific movies such as *Disclosure* in QuickTime format. For something a little different, you can also download a special-effects clip.

Guillotine

Web: <http://www.cipsinc.com/jack/guillotine.html>

The visuals are perhaps the most striking element of this hip-hop culture e-zine. The site is laid out like a house,

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all
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to lead
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CompuServe: **go pcworld**

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Multimedia



Movie Heaven

Viewers will find romance, adventure, comedy and more in 20th Century Fox's hit movie *French Kiss*. Get the inside scoop on the entertainment world's latest releases by visiting America Online's Hollywood Online (keyword: **hollywood**).

Click on the New Movies section for profiles about *French Kiss* stars Meg Ryan, Kevin Kline and Timothy Hutton. Interesting tidbits about the movie's producers, writers and directors are also available. Discover where various scenes of the movie were filmed in the On Location section, which takes you from the beaches of Cannes to the Eiffel Tower. Download many color pictures and sound clips from *French Kiss*. If you're interested in witty repartee, join in the discussions about the movie industry at the Hollywood Cafe. Other featured movies in Hollywood Online include *Rob Roy*, *Die Hard With a Vengeance* and *Johnny Mnemonic*.

with the first floor containing articles about the hip-hop lifestyle and music. Audio downloads are available on the second floor, while the third floor features interviews with musicians and artists.

Her Own Words

Web: <http://netopia.com/herwords>

Cybersavvy women won't want to miss this site. Her Own Words is a company that produces 15- to 20-minute informational videos on women's history and literature. The complete catalog is outlined on the site and features brief descriptions of each video, including "Pioneer Women's Diaries" and "Women in Policing." Look here for information about the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage.

Hollywood Online

America Online: keyword **hollywood**

Go to Hollywood Online, where you can download interactive kits for more than 30 current box-office hits. See animation, hear soundbytes and read production notes and biographies, including video clips from *French Kiss* and *Legends of the Fall*. Click on the Multimedia icon for your flick pick.

House of Sound

ftp: [sound.usach.cl/pub](ftp://sound.usach.cl/pub)

This multimedia ftp archive is compiled by the University of Santiago in Chile. You will find a variety of songs, music, utilities, demos, graphics and more in the sound, video and utilities subdirectories.

IAMFREE Sound

Web: <http://www.artnet.org/iamfree/html/sound.html>

See cool graphics or listen to aural blossoms from composer Mike Frengel via the Sound Gallery of the Internet Art Museum for Free (IAMFREE). Featured here is the first album created exclusively for the Internet—*The Slowest Train in the World: The Dance of Antoine*. You can also listen to *A Western Front* by Full Blown Dave, the first full-length music album available on the Internet for free.

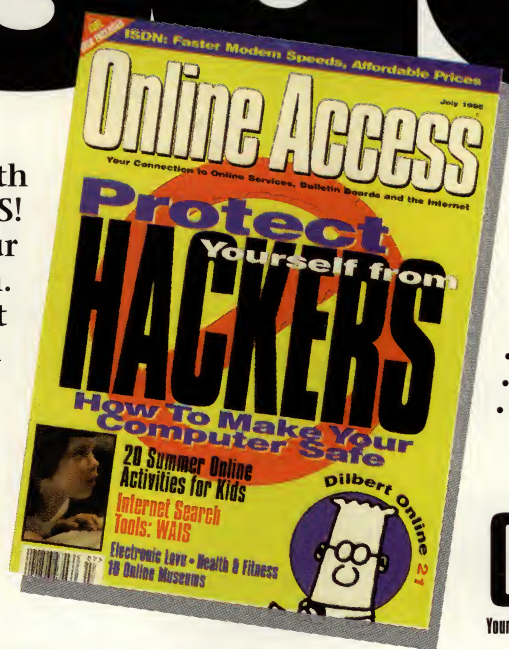
janet.

Web: <http://www.mit.edu:8001/people/agoyol/sounds.html>

Janet Jackson fans will adore this site. An amazing amount of information is offered, including lyrics, sound clips, graphics and tour information.

Back Issues

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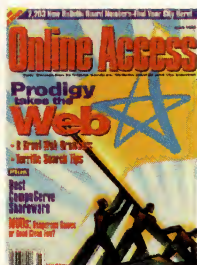


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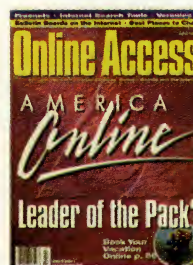
June '95

- All About the World Wide Web—Browsers, Search Tools and Search Tips
- Exploring EDGAR
- For Beginners: Sending E-mail
- MUD Games
- BBS Phone Book: 2,203 numbers listed



May '95

- Best Web Sites
- Investigate Reporting Online
- Electronic Books, Magazines and Libraries
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- AOL: New Online Leader
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100% Janet

Excellent graphics complement the Janet Web site (<http://www.mit.edu:8001/people/agoyol/sounds.html>), dedicated to one of pop music's most celebrated artists, Janet Jackson. Fans will find a multitude of information about Jackson's career, her plans for the future and a tour schedule. Listen to many sound clips from her latest release entitled *Janet*, which features the songs "You Know You Want This," "If" and "Again." The lyrics are also provided for your singing pleasure.

Although this site's main focus is on Jackson's latest release, many lyrics, such as "The Pleasure Principle" and "Miss You Much," are also online. Janet Jackson fans, old and new, will have a great time navigating this musical Web site.



The Movie BBS

Modem: 718-939-5462

This entire BBS is devoted to movies, with 12,000 movie GIFs, original color scans, filmographies, reviews, celebrity addresses and real-time video. Audio clips from movies and animation are plentiful. You can catch a Looney Tunes quote or download the James Bond 007 theme. Membership costs \$15 per month or \$80 per year.

Movie Sounds

Web: http://calypso_2.oit.unc.edu/pub/multimedia/sun-sounds/movies

Download soundbytes from a diverse array of movies at this Web site. Information from such movies as *Aladdin* and *Gone With the Wind* is also available.

Music Industry Forum

CompuServe: keyword **Music**, select **Music Industry Forum**

Guitars are a major focus of the Music Industry Forum on CompuServe. In the Library Section under Guitar World, you'll find interactive guitar lessons to download. You will also have the opportunity to download and listen to guitarists such as Marty Friedman and Diamond Darrell. There are, however, many more text files than sound files at this site.

Musicblurt

Modem: 602-326-5680

Online since 1989, Musicblurt caters to the local music scene of Tucson, Arizona. Files contain music from a variety of musicians, both local and national, as well as Musicblurt soundbytes and multimedia press kits. You will also find concert listings and information on national song releases. Basic access to Musicblurt is free, but \$15 per year grants you more access time.

MusicNet

Modem: 513-849-9095

This free BBS provides a forum for those in the music industry. Many audio files are available in .WAV, .MOD and MIDI formats. Files range from music to interviews. Sound utilities and images are also prevalent.

National Center for Atmospheric Research

Web: <http://cyclone.scd.ucar.edu/Animations/index.html>

The multimedia files here contain scientific animation and visualizations of natural phenomena. These visuals allow scientists to analyze data sets of 3-D models, bringing concepts, such as velocity, to life. Although not yet complete, portions of The Visible Human Project are also at this Web site. When finished, this endeavor promises to bring the entire human body online in full three-dimensional video.

NightPlayer

Modem: 909-860-9668

A variety of AVI video files are online covering topics from film and nature to sports and adult as well as 24-bit JPEG pictures and utilities. NightPlayer offers MCI Network access for those not in the BBS's local calling area (Diamond Bar, California). Access rates begin at \$10 for a three-month membership.

Jimmy Page and Robert Plant World Tour 1995

Web: <http://www.zoso.com/zoso>

Jimmy Page and Robert Plant, a partnership that has rocked the music world for more than three decades, have made their appearance on the Internet. Download entries in the Postcards section, which tells of their gigs and the songs that developed while they toured Morocco, London, Wales and Marrakech. Macintosh users can preview the new Led Zeppelin tribute "Encornium," which features classic Zeppelin songs performed by today's hot bands, such as Hootie and the Blowfish, Stone Temple Pilots, the Rollins Band and Sheryl Crow.

Light and Dark Inside

Web: <http://uenics.evansville.edu/~da2>

This alternative music-oriented site is noted for its links to 2,500 other music sites. With a click of the mouse, users can access the home pages of artists from Pearl Jam to Frank Sinatra. This interactive site has an amusing message board too.

Megamedia Multimedia BBS

Modem: 408-428-9901

Megamedia's multimedia files contain utilities and many audio and video files with music, voice, sound effects, animation, sports and movie clips. Amateur as well as professional work is represented. Basic membership to Megamedia is free with additional access available for \$20 to \$50 per year.

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People Online

CompuServe: keyword **people**

The online version of *People* magazine offers its users a variety of sights and sounds. You can listen to a sound clip of Princess Di's intimate phone conversation with James Gibbey. You can also hear CD samples and download video and multimedia previews of popular movies. If a musician or movie has been reviewed in the magazine, the service lists the issue in which it was profiled. (To access the files, go to the Library and Archives area.)

Presenting Bill Clinton and Gennifer Flowers in Setting the Record Straight

Web: <http://www.sccsi.com/2gee/bill.html>

Here's a Web site guaranteed to attract tabloid fans. Get the dirt on the so-called steamy escapade by listening to samples from the complete and unedited Bill

Clinton/Gennifer Flowers tapes. You can order the first edition, two-volume audiocassette program and companion book online for only \$19.95, plus \$4.95 shipping and handling.

The Pulp Fiction Page

Web: <http://wolf.cso.uiuc.edu/pulpfict.html>

Just when you thought the movie hype was over, along comes The Pulp Fiction Page from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The main attraction here is the downloadable film clips, including such classic scenes as the twist contest. Songs from the soundtrack are also available for download.

rec.audio

Usenet: **rec.audio**

This newsgroup contains queries of all kinds regarding music and equipment. If you have a question like "What is HDCD?" this is the place to go. Check the postings for

equipment like radio receivers and car stereos, where you'll find postings from people all over the world, including the United Kingdom and Poland.

Rock Around the World

Web: <http://www.ratw.com>

This Web site features interviews and audio files that you can download from Rock Around the World's 1970's radio program. Some of the artists you'll find on this site include The Rolling Stones, John Lennon, Eric Clapton and Jimi Hendrix.

Sight and Sound Forum

CompuServe: keywords **sight and sound**

Check out the sights and sounds of this popular forum, where you'll find some fun, diverse sound effects—everything from a galloping horse to a really great laugh. CompuServe members contribute heavily to the file areas here. In the MIDI Song Library, you can download music from a wide variety of artists, including Beethoven, Bobby McFerrin and The Police.

Sites With Audio Clips

Web: <http://www.eecs.nwu.edu/~jmymers/othersounds.html>

This site consists of links to various sound archives that are arranged in sound, music and voice categories. Musical artists featured include Elvis, the Beastie Boys and Nine Inch Nails. The Miscellaneous sounds are a lot of fun, too. Don't miss listening to screams, whales and birds.

People-Watching Paparazzi

Keanu, Jean-Claude, Bruce, Des'ree, Elle and Julia—these are the people being watched by *People* magazine and its CompuServe counterpart, People Online (keyword: **people**). Gossip is the magazine's forte as it reports on the trials and tribulations of actors, musicians, artists and everyday citizens with unusual stories to tell. Good news for cybersnoops: The publication is available online as soon as the weekly magazine hits the newsstand.

People Online brings the printed word to life with audio and video paparazzi. In addition to the cover story, feature articles and Picks and Pans, you will find the People Forum (keyword: **peofor**) with the Hot Sounds and Movie Preview file library. Download clips and previews of movies straight from Hollywood, such as *Johnny Mnemonic* and *Mad Love*, or sample the CDs from Duran Duran, Annie Lenox, Aaron Neville and Milt Hinton. It's a people-watching frenzy!

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Hooray for Hollywood

"Go ahead, make my day." Clint Eastwood immortalized these words in the film *Dirty Harry*. You can download this audio clip of Eastwood on the Videodrome BBS (508-287-0311, modem), which specializes in multimedia files and information about the movies, from the obscure to box-office hits. You will find video and audio clips from *Star Wars*, *Monty Python*, *Rising Sun*, *Destiny Turns on the Radio*, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* and *Airplane*. Television fans will find much to enjoy here, too, with scenes from *Beavis and Butthead*, *The Flintstones* and *Seinfeld*, to name a few. Images of many major actors and actresses are also online. So go ahead, log on and make your day.

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The Skull

Modem: 415-579-5544

The Skull offers a variety of multimedia files, utilities and musical slide shows. Many adult video files are available, although you will find some G-rated material online. The Skull offers local access throughout the San Francisco Bay area and a three-month membership costs \$10.

Songs of the University of Minnesota

Web: <http://www.umn.edu/nlhome/g340/male0020/songs.html>

You can hear and sing along to many of the University of Minnesota's spirit songs like "Go Gopher Victory" and "The Minnesota Rouser." Lyrics are provided, so participation is a must!

Sony

Web: <http://www.sony.com>

You can listen to the music of Sony artists like Branford Marsalis, Ozzy Osbourne and Bruce Springsteen at this Web site. Sneak previews of video games are also available.

Sound Advice

Modem: 816-436-4516

Sound Advice is one of the largest BBSs in Kansas City, Missouri. It offers a large variety of .WAV and MIDI files, featuring TV theme songs and popular music. A variety of BBS networks are carried as well as Usenet news-groups, with forums on multimedia, audio, video and utilities. Basic membership to Sound Advice costs \$30 per year.

SPINonline

America Online: keyword spin

The online version of the music magazine *SPIN* goes beyond the written word. In addition to offering articles and news from the latest issue, SPINonline has song clips in its Multimedia Gallery. For example, you can listen to sound clips from Lollapalooza '94.

Star Wars Multimedia WWW

Web: <http://bantha.pc.cc.cmu.edu:1138/StarWars/Music/SWMusic.html>

Get out your life saber and set your Web browser to this galactical Web page. The site features a list of songs from the *Star Wars* trilogy as well as ordering information, liner notes for *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back* and a bio of John Williams, composer of all of the *Star Wars* films' music. May the force be with you!

T2 Sounds

Web: <http://www.maths.tcd.ie/pub/films/terminator/sounds.html>

Terminator fans will love this Web site. Download sound files in .AU and .WAV formats from *The Terminator* and *Terminator 2: Judgement Day*. Listen to the theme music from T2 or your favorite Arnold Schwarzenegger expression, such as "I'll be back" or "Hasta la vista, baby," followed by a gunshot and sounds of a scattering T1000.

Time Warner Lifestyle Forum

CompuServe: keyword twlife

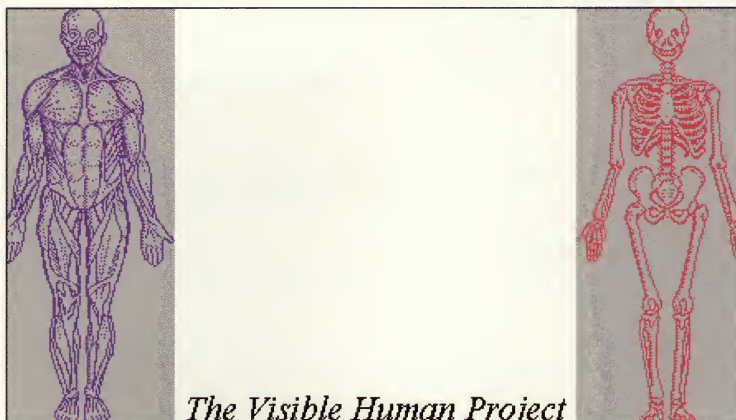
The Time Warner Lifestyle Forum covers everything from movies and hobbies to relationships and self-improvement. If you're dedicated to getting into shape, download one of the one-minute exercise video clips available. *Buns of Steel Grapevine* and *Buns of Steel—Warmup* are a few of the titles from which you can

The Visible Man

With today's multimedia technology, animation gives scientists a lot of information, since three-dimensional models can move and reveal every aspect of their research.

Several scientific animations are on the National Center for Atmospheric Research's Web page at <http://cyclone.scd.ucar.edu/Animations/index.html>. Current concepts illustrated by the MPEG animations include frontogenesis, turbulent fluid flow and velocity. But attracting the most attention is The Visible Human Project.

The Visible Man, an MPEG animation of a rotating, three-dimensional human body was created by merging images of a real cadaver. Scientists hope that animations can be created for every part of the body, inside and out. One of the biggest challenges of the project is to create visualizations of The Visible Man in full motion.



choose. (These are available in the forum's Health/Fitness area of the Library section.)

For those who prefer the big screen flicks, you can also go to the Music/Movies/Arts area to download promo spots and view them as QuickTime movies.

Viacom Web Watch

Web: <http://www.mcp.com/general/news4/webw.html>

Viacom Web Watch is a great place to start if you're interested in entertainment-based Web sites. Links are provided to some of the more popular Web sites, including MTV, VH-1 and *Wired*. You can also download the QuickTime program to view a clip of *Forrest Gump* or MTV's *Club Dead*.

Videodrome

Modem: 508-287-0311

If you're in love with movies, you'll want to check out Videodrome, a BBS devoted entirely to movies and entertainment. Find sounds and graphics clips culled from films of every kind. Movie news, reviews, the Academy Awards, the top 10 movie and video lists, fan club addresses and filmographies of 20,000 movies from the Internet Movie Database are also online. Membership costs \$50 per year.

The Web Museum Auditorium

Web: <http://sunsite.unc.edu/louvre.snd/>

Although best known for its images of paintings, The Louvre Web page also features an auditorium, where you'll find sound files of classical music from Bach, Beethoven, Strauss and Orff.

Sports Online

What's your game? The 'Net has front-row seats for your favorite sports events, from baseball, basketball and football to rugby, tennis and figure skating. We've found 38 sites for online sports enthusiasts, with discussions about players, teams and individual games and matches. Argue with fans of rival teams, catch up on current stats, schedule changes and division/league standings or read the latest sports news on these great 'Net sport spots.

ABC Sports Online

America Online: keywords ABC Sports

ABC's Wide World of Sports extends into cyberspace with full online coverage. You can access ABC Sports information, with program schedules and announcer bios online, but that's not all. Check out Pix and Clips from Monday Night Football, ABC College Basketball, Sports Classics and the Wide World of Sports broadcasts. A few scenes you can download and view include crashing helmets, Deion Sanders dancing and a missed field goal. Roundtable discussions, games, trivia and polls are also available.

AOL Sports

America Online: keyword sports

The Sports forum on AOL offers a variety of information and schedules for every major sport. Local team coverage is provided by the *Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Times*, *DataTimes* and the *San Jose Mercury News*. Sports fans can gather in the grandstand to compare notes on their favorite games. A good selection of sporting magazines is online too.

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The Baseball Server

Web: <http://www2.nando.net/baseball/bbmain.html>

You'll find major league action on NandoNet's Baseball Server. While it offers lots of statistics, the Web page also recaps the latest baseball news, starting pitchers and league standings.

The Boxing Page

Web: <http://lemur.at.cornell.edu/boxing/boxing.html>

This Web page is a knockout! Boxing enthusiasts will find practically everything about the sport, including upcoming fights, results, division champions and ranking. Don't go down with the punch, log on!

College Football

Web: <http://www.math.ufl.edu/~mtgardt/rsc.html>

Whether your team's part of the Big Ten, the Big East, the Big West or any other conference, look for weekly scores on the College Football home page. It features Associated Press game summaries, recruiting news and feature columns. You can also look back at schedules from the 1993 and 1994 football seasons.

CyberSports

Web: <http://sfgate.com/sports>

The *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *San Francisco Examiner* team up to bring The Gate Web site. The Gate offers comprehensive news coverage including views on professional sports.

ESPN

Prodigy: keyword **ESPN**

Just like the ESPN television network, ESPN on Prodigy covers virtually every aspect of the sports world. Log on for scores, statistics and stories about professional and college teams from football and hockey to horse racing and gymnastics.

ESPN SportsZone

Web: <http://ESPN.SportsZone.com/>

Get on the Web for full sports reports from ESPN. Stories ripped from the newswire are continuously updated online. News stories cover everything from the NBA to the PGA, and scoreboards tally results from baseball, basketball, hockey and other sports. You can also submit your questions for review to the programs Talk2 and UpClose.

Figure Skating Home Page

Web: <http://www.cs.yale.edu/HTML/YALE/CS/HyPlans/loosemore-sandra/skate.html>

Whether you're a fan of Tonya Harding or Nancy Kerrigan, this Web site is sure to please. It includes an extensive collection of frequently asked questions on competitive figure skating, as well as many links to other skating-related resources. You may even download a MPEG video of Nancy Kerrigan on the ice or link to the Tonya Harding Fan Club Page.

FTP Football Server

ftp: <ftp.vnet.net/pub2/special-interest/football/pro>

This ftp site is chock-full of information on free agency, franchises and team expansion. A timetable maps out 1995 football in activity. Player lists, NFL rosters, starter information and draft results are also available.

GolfWeb

Web: <http://www.golfweb.com>

GolfWeb, a Web 'zine, has a plethora of information about the sport. Check up on all of the latest golf tours worldwide from the Bellsouth Classic to the Italian Open. The GolfWeb Library archives columns by regular contributors and the OnCourse online database contains 14,000 golf courses nationwide for you to research and critique. Also online are tournament reports, record books, statistics and the USGA rules of golf.

Hawaii's NHL Home Page

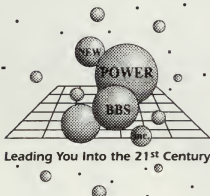
Web: <http://maxwell.uhh.hawaii.edu/hockey/hockey.html>

Attention hockey fans, here's your online connection to the NHL! Hawaii's NHL Home Page not only charts current season standings but also offers stats going back almost seven decades. Season records, playoff scores and team histories from as far back as 1927 are cataloged in Maxwell's Hockey Archive.

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There are over 76,000 seats at Mile High Stadium, where the Denver Broncos play. If your seats

at the stadium are in section 105, you will be watching the game from the 50-yard line. To find your seats at Mile High Stadium and at virtually any other sports venue, consult the Stadiums and Arenas Web page at <http://www.wgcd.com/stadiums.html>, hosted by World Collector's Digest. Over 100 venues are listed, from Madison Square Garden to Candlestick Park, with ticket-office phone numbers and arena addresses. You can even discover which stadiums use Texas turf or Greenbay grass!



It's a World Wide Web of Sports

Can Danny Darwin lead the Toronto Blue Jays to the World Series? Will Shannon Miller's 1996 Olympic dreams become reality? Who has the best shot at the Stanley Cup in 1996? Find answers to these and other sports-related questions on the Internet. The World Wide Web of Sports home page (<http://www.tns.lcs.mit.edu/cgi-bin/sports>) serves as the gateway to sports sites across the 'Net, such as The Blue Jays Home Page (<http://www.interlog.com/bluejays>), The Gym (<http://www.rmii.com/~rachele/gymhome.html>) and the NFL Home Page (<http://maxwell.uhh.hawaii.edu/hockey/hockey.html>). Every sport imaginable is represented on the WWW of Sports, collegiate and professional, from baseball and football to horse racing and sailing. The available links number in the hundreds, with new sites added regularly. Don't miss the WWW of Sports' game highlights on video.

The Internet Runner

Web: <http://sunsite.unc.edu/drears/running/running.html>

The Internet Runner features information on upcoming races, race results and good running places. There are also descriptions of products for runners.

NFL Sidelines

Web: <http://www.nflhome.com/nflhome.html>

Get ready, the NFL regular season begins on September 3. The official NFL Web page gives you all of the stats, schedules and lineups of your favorite teams.

National Professional Soccer League

Web: <http://www.ccc.wustl.edu/~krml/npslmain.html>

Everything you've always wanted to know about the NPSL is online! This Web site offers complete NPSL rules, history, a directory of NPSL teams and college drafts. You can also keep up-to-date on expansion teams.

1996 Olympic Page

Web: <http://www.atlanta.olympics.org/>

The 1996 Centennial games are just around the corner. If you've got Olympic fever, surf to the Games' official home page. It offers official program and sports venues, as well as ticket and travel information.

Professional Basketball Server

Web: <http://www.netgen.com/SIS/NBA/NBA.html>

Keep up with the NBA! This server offers the play-by-play of games, with team schedules, the 1994 season in review, NBA awards and an archive of drafts back to 1976. If you don't already have NBA fever, you'll catch it here!

Professional Hockey Server

Web: <http://www.netgen.com/SIS/NHL/NHL.html>

Hockey fans can check in with the Professional Hockey Server for current NHL schedule information, scores and standings. The Web page also links to many NHL discussion groups. Hard core fans can even subscribe here to mailing lists for daily scores and team standings.

rec.sport.baseball

Usenet: rec.sport.baseball

A recent post in the rec.sport.baseball newsgroup hailed Wil Cordero as the best shortstop in baseball. As you can imagine, this was hotly contested by fans of Cal Ripken, Jr. and Barry Larkin. Participants of this newsgroup do more than argue over who's the best, though; you'll find heavy dialogue on almost every aspect of the game, including players, teams, dream lineups and sports writers.

rec.sport.basketball.pro

Usenet: rec.sport.basketball.pro

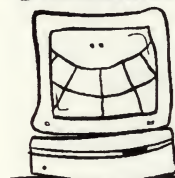
What NBA player do you think could guard all five positions? Recent participants in the rec.sport.basketball.pro newsgroup nominated Mogsy Bogues, Dennis Rodman, Hakeem Olajuwon, Derrick McKey, Anthony Mason and, of course, Michael Jordan for the title. Although Jordanmania is prevalent here, predictions and player performance regarding every NBA team and player are discussed.

rec.sport.football.pro

Usenet: rec.sport.football.pro

Controversy is sure to follow posts, such as "What team has the best fans?" and "The Chargers (won't) win it all!" in the rec.sport.football.pro newsgroup. Heated debate, discussions, predictions and news about professional football dominate this newsgroup.

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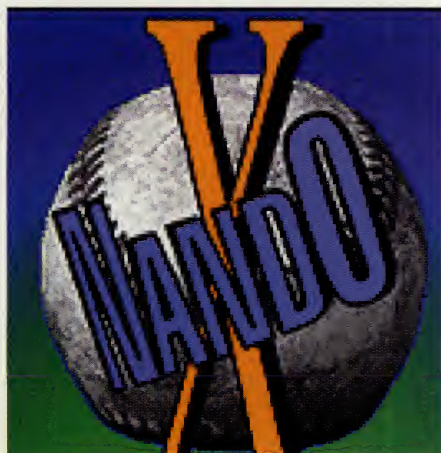
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Holy Cow, The Strike's Over!

The baseball strike may be over, but its ghost lives on at the NandoNet Baseball Server (<http://www2.nando.net/baseball/bbmain.html>), where you'll find news archives of the

strike. In spite of the strike, the 1995 baseball season is alive and well on the Web site too.

Stats, stats, stats is the modus operandi on the Baseball Server, with all the latest information on the major and minor leagues in each division, including league, team and player statistics, standings and transactions. You may also link to SportsChat to join in discussions with baseball fans worldwide.

- Searching for a new BBS?
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Info Market Place

Every month **Info MarketPlace** brings you information about new products and services available online. Turn to page 91 to find out more.

rec.sport.hockey

Usenet: rec.sport.hockey

In addition to the usual banter over who is the best hockey player, participants in the **rec.sport.hockey** newsgroup discuss hockey coverage of the Fox Television Network, bad calls made by referees and team performance. If you want to question who the best team is, be prepared for a landslide of heated, passionate responses.

rec.sport.olympics

Usenet: rec.sport.olympics

Planning a trip to Atlanta for the 1996 Summer Olympic games? The newsgroup **rec.sport.olympics** will help you locate tickets, hotels/housing and game schedules. Browse the posts or add questions and comments of your own.

rec.sport.pro-wrestling

Usenet: rec.sport.pro-wrestling

Where are wrestlers Special Delivery Jones, The Iron Sheik and Johnny Ace? Recent contributors to the newsgroup **rec.sport.pro-wrestling** are trying to keep up with these and other favorite wrestlers. This discussion group deals with professional wrestling and the wrestlers themselves. In addition to tracking down heroes, recent posts discuss steroid use among wrestlers, pay-per-view television matches and trivia.

San Jose Mercury Center

Web: <http://www.sjmercury.com/spts.htm>

Online and offline, the sports pages of the *San Jose Mercury News* are chock-full of late-breaking sports stories. From professional and collegiate sports to local high school competitions, the *San Jose Mercury News* covers it all.

Schedules

Telnet: [culine.colorado.edu](telnet://culine.colorado.edu)

Check here for your favorite team's game schedules: for baseball enter port **862**; for the NBA enter port **859**; for the NFL enter port **863** and for NHL enter port **860**. Just enter your team into the online query for a listing of the next three games to be played.

Sports BB

Prodigy: keywords **sports BB**

Prodigy users have many topics of discussion to choose from in this active bulletin board. All professional sports are discussed, including auto racing, baseball, bowling, football, golf, soccer and tennis.

Sports Illustrated Online

CompuServe: keyword **simagazine**

Updated weekly just like the magazine, Sports Illustrated Online elegantly brings you sports news, insights and dramatic photography. SI's writers and editors are also available in online sports talk forums. You can peruse the latest sports scores and statistics, too. Search past issues in the online archives. Sports Illustrated Online is part of CompuServe's extended services, but you may access the SI Store or Letters to the Editor as part of Basic Services.

Sports Stats

Web: <http://www.islandnet.com/~agar/soccer1.html>

Soccer, a.k.a. football, is the national pastime in England. The Sports Stats Web page covers the English football scene, including what's new in the sport, team updates and club/team statistics tables.

Stadiums and Arenas

Web: <http://www.wvcd.com/stadiums.html>

For sports fans, even television coverage cannot beat the thrill of seeing a game from the bleachers. A question very important to any ticket holder is "Where are my seats?" From the Georgia Dome to Candlestick Park, turn to this Web page for information on virtually every sports stadium, including seating arrangements and photographs.

The Super Bowl

Web: <http://superbowl.com/superbowl/superbowl.html>

The football season may just be starting, but Super Bowl fans can check out this Web page to remember Super Bowl XXIX and gear up for Super Bowl XXX. You will find reports and merchandise from last year's contest online, as well as information on the Joe Robbie Stadium, the San Diego Chargers and the Super Bowl Committee.

Tennis Worldwide

Web: <http://www.xmission.com/~gastown/tennis>

Tennis Worldwide offers something for the tennis pro and sideline player alike. Read a variety of articles online about the professional tennis scene, as well as hints to improve your game. You can also view profiles of each player. United States Tennis Association official referee Warren Ward hosts a question-and-answer forum with advice and conflict solutions. Also, check into the user-maintained schedule of nationwide tennis events for upcoming events in your area.

U.S. Soccer Web Page

Web: <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~mdwheel/us-soccer>

A site for soccer fans by soccer fans, this Web page delves into both men's and women's soccer. It offers information on the U.S. national team, U.S. pro leagues, the World Cup and television broadcast schedules.

The Unofficial Rugby Home Page

Web: <http://rugby.phys.uidaho.edu/rugby.html>

Looking for rugby clubs in Western Samoa? The Unofficial Rugby Home Page can aid your search. In addition to the basic rules of rugby, trivia and FAQs, it contains a database of regional rugby clubs and information throughout the world, including Western Samoa. You may also want to consult the full schedule of international games, including the World Cup.

Volleyball Worldwide

Web: <http://Market.NET/~vball/>

Whether you prefer volleyball on the court or the beach, this Web page has your game. Novices can look here for an introduction to the sport. Learn about beach volleyball history or follow the USA national teams with listings of all 1995 tours and results.

VuSystem

Web: <http://www.tns.lcs.mit.edu/vs/vssportsbrowser.html>

This Web page serves as a demo site for the video browser utility VuSystem and features some great video clips of major league baseball and NBA action. It's a great way to test your video equipment and review your favorite video highlights.

WQAM SportsNet

Web: <http://prod1.satelnet.org/wqam>

Sportsradio 560, WQAM, is South Florida's oldest radio station. Before tuning in, log on to the station's Web page, SportsNet, for programming information and schedules. You will also find sports forums, news and contests online.

World Wide Web of Sports

Web: <http://www.tns.lcs.mit.edu/cgi-bin/sports>

For the true sports lover, the World Wide Web of Sports covers everything from baseball, hockey and soccer to horse racing, sailing and gymnastics. You can check out the 1996 Olympic Games, NFL schedules, NCAA basketball polls from the Associated Press, CNN and USA Today and NBA video highlights. It's a one-stop sports shot.

New Age

The New Age movement involves many philosophical theories and beliefs pertaining to religion, astrology and music. If you're interested in New Age, here are 34 sites you will appreciate. They offer information on everything from paganism and wicca to the occult and astrology. Popular discussions cover various rituals, spells, meditation techniques, the afterlife, runes, crystals and much more. You can even have a tarot card reading online or listen to digitized New Age music!

alt.astrology

Usenet: alt.astrology

The **alt.astrology** newsgroup contains questions, answers and ongoing dialogue on astrology. Various aspects of astrology are covered, from information about planetary cycles and eclipses to astrological signs and language.

alt.divination

Usenet: alt.divination

Want to learn how to make divination cards and carve crystals? Check out the **alt.divination** newsgroup to learn how. Everything from professional



Super Bowl Memories

He scores! Jerry Rice catches the ball to complete the 49ers seventh touchdown in Super Bowl XXIX. You may have watched this play during ABC's coverage of the Super Bowl last year. Relive it through ABC Sports Online's Pix and Clips on America Online (keywords: **abc sports**). The seasoned television network goes online to bring its sports coverage to 'Net surfers.

ABC Sports Online is not only entertaining, but it's informative and interactive too. Log on for sports highlights, scores and transactions as well as a full programming schedule. Participate in opinion polls, online chat and auditorium appearances and roundtable discussions about everything from ABC's pro bowlers to the Los Angeles Lakers. Whether you missed the game, or just want to relive it, check out ABC Sports Online.

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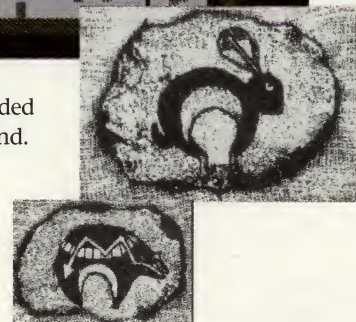
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Enchanting Cyberstore

Looking for the latest ritual or spiritual paraphernalia? If so, you've come to the right place. Echos of Enchantments provides quality supplies and services to a global metaphysical community. This unique service sells items, such as Native American rattles, Indian ocarinas, pure herbal oils, fragrant incense and handcrafted jewelry.

Every item is chosen with special care, right down to the bath crystals that are blended by hand during certain moon phases to the stoneware goblets imported from England.

Check out this Web site (<http://www.eoe-magical.org>) for information about Echos of Enchantments' latest product, frags, which are pictured here. Frags, ancient etchings or images, which were carved in ceremonial caves or cliffs as a means of communicating ideas or recording events, can be purchased online at Echos of Enchantments. Artist J. Running's frag collection of designs and reproductions are casted in sandstone-colored bonded resin and hand painted.



tarot card readings to rune carvings is discussed in this newsgroup.

alt.life.afterlife

Usenet: alt.life.afterlife

The messages in the small newsgroup alt.life.afterlife focus on reincarnation, natural healings and the afterlife. Some interesting postings ponder what happens to dogs in the afterlife.

alt.magick

Usenet: alt.magick

This newsgroup is a resource for anyone interested in magic. Satanism, magic spells, paganism and romance astrology are all discussed here, among other magic topics. Popular books and articles are frequently mentioned as well.

alt.meditation

Usenet: alt.meditation

Many debates occur at the alt.meditation newsgroup regarding various meditation techniques. Spiritual transformation and Buddhist terminology are popular topics of discussion as well.

alt.pagan

Usenet: alt.pagan

Discussions in the alt.pagan newsgroup cover many different aspects and beliefs of paganism. Definitions are provided for terms like druids and goddesses. Users are friendly and give advice freely. Learn about the culture and various gatherings of the pagan religion in this newsgroup.

alt.religion.wicca FAQ

Web: http://www.ssc.org/~athomps/pagan/alt_religion_wicca.html

Visit this site for a complete introduction to the wicca religion. Information is provided regarding the religion's practices, tools and rituals.

alt.tarot

Usenet: alt.tarot

This interesting newsgroup focuses on tarot cards and readings. Find out the meaning of the various animals on tarot cards, the differences in the decks and what each symbolizes. Various methods for reading tarot cards, storage procedures, different card layouts and books are also discussed.

Ascended Masters, Extraterrestrials & Archangels

Web: <http://err.ethz.ch/~kiwi/Spirit/mastersets-angels.html>

Astrology, reincarnation, meditation, yoga, lightwork and channeling—these topics are all represented on the Ascended Masters, Extraterrestrials & Archangels Web site. The information is presented in the form of images, literature, books and articles.

AwareNET

Gopher: <gopher://gopher.awarenet.com>

If astrology is your passion, there is a gold mine of information waiting for you at the AwareNET Web site. In addition, you can expand your awareness of UFOs, earth changes and the acceleration of consciousness.

Bay Area Pagan Assemblies (BAPA)

Web: <http://www.cro.ricoh.com/~rowanf/BAPA/bapa.html>

The Bay Area Pagan Assemblies is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting pagan religious beliefs and freedom. BAPA supports all "nature-oriented religions, whose worship revolves around the cycles of the sun and moon." Check out this site for more background information about BAPA, its goals and beliefs.

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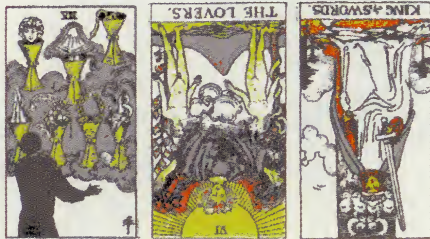
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Online Tarot Reading

Tarot cards have fascinated people for hundreds of years. These days, cybersavvy people are having their tarot cards read 1990s style—online.

Visitors of the Tarot Reading Web site (<http://cad.ucla.edu/repository/useful/tarot.html>) can choose between a personal reading, which analyzes three cards, or a full Keltic reading, which utilizes the full deck.



Visually, this site is brilliant. The tarot deck is transformed into colorful graphics and a detailed description explaining the meaning accompanies every card. Envision a situation or problem that you are currently facing, click on the desired icon and then let the cards fall where they may.

High Plains Pagan & Magick Page

Web: <http://www.uwoyo.edu/ASA/CTE/pagan/pagan.html>

This page is dedicated to providing the public with information regarding the latest pagan and magic announcements, news, festivals, events and workshops. You can also read about businesses that cater to the pagan community. An impressive list of stores and mail-order services are included, with goods like altar clothes and jewelry. You'll also find information about student pagan groups around the world.

The New Age Web Works

Web: <http://www.newageinfo.com>

Although currently under construction, The New Age Web Works provides information about New Age under sections entitled Articles, Products, Services and Fun. Links to other New Age sites are also listed.

Occult Page

Web: <http://www.uib.no/zoo/wolf/bijorn/occult.html>

The Occult Page contains files and links relating to magic and wicca. Some occult-related ftp sites and resources are also available.

Biorhythm

Web: <http://cad.ucla.edu:8001/biorhythm>

Biorhythms chart your state of being based on your birthday. To view your current biorhythm, surf to this Web site. Just enter your birthday and let the search begin. Your biorhythm will be computed and you can view your results online.

The Crystal Ball Forum

America Online: keywords **crystal ball**

Find a wealth of information about tarot cards in this forum. You can learn about the details on tarot readings and definitions about the cards of various tarot decks.

Echos of Enchantments

Web: <http://www.eoe-magical.org>

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Echos of Enchantments provides the metaphysical community with low-cost supplies and services. Items from all over the world are available for purchase. Oils, incense, stoneware, jewelry, crafts and bath crystals are just a few items available. You can also request a free catalog.

FAQ for alt.pagan

Web: <http://www.ssc.org/~athomps/pagan/altpagan/html>

ftp: <ftp://cc.utexas.edu/pub/minerva/paganism-faq>

This FAQ answers common questions about paganism, wicca and witchcraft. It is a must-see for those interested in these religions.

The Green Light

Web: <http://www.globalone.net/grnlight/home.htm>

The Green Light is a New Age, metaphysical and occult bookstore and supply shop located offline in New York and online at this Web site. Books are listed among the many stimulating supplies like candles, drums, oils and incense.

Higher Octave Recording Artists

Web: <http://smartworld.com/hioctave/chaquico/chaquico.html>

Craig Chaquico fans will love this Web site, which offers an 800-number for ordering his latest New Age music release and sound clips of his songs. You can also read a biography that will take you back to Chaquico's days with Jefferson Starship.

OMNet Home Page

Web: <http://www.contrib.andrew.cmu.edu:8001/user/sk4p/om>

OMNet is dedicated to providing the public with information about the occult as well as mystical documents and social groups. Visit this Web page to read the foundation document of OMNet.

Pagan and Occult-Related Art

Web: http://www.tardis.ed.ac.uk/~feorag/paganlink/gallery/pix_index.html

Clip art relating to paganism and the occult dominates this Web page. You'll find various symbols, sacred sites, mythological creatures, witches and deities here.

Pagan Resources on the 'Net

Web: <http://www.ssc.org/~athomps/pagan/paganres.html>

Interested in finding pagan issues on the Internet? This is a great place to start. You will find useful links to various pagan resources speckled across the 'Net on gopher, ftp, the Web and Usenet sites.

Paganism & the Occult

ftp: <ftp://spies.com/library/fringe/occult/>

Anyone interested in paganism or the occult will be able to download a lot of information pertaining to rituals, voodoo, wicca, astrology and runes. Some articles like "The Runes" and "The Chalice of Ecstasy" can also be found here.

The Pentagonam Page

Web: <http://www.cybercom.com/~ken/pag/tpp.html>

This site is the home of the *Single Flame* online newspaper, which focuses on solitary wicca. Information is also provided about paganism. Links to wicca, pagan and magic sites are listed too.

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Set Your Spirit Free

The New Age Web Works (<http://www.newageinfo.com>) is a gold mine for anyone interested in New Age philosophies, services, vendors or literature. Prepare to be spiritually awakened when you enter the Products section, where the spotlight is on Sacred Dreams Productions and ceremonial singer Lisa Thiel. Thiel's latest release *Journey to the Goddess* is a compilation of peaceful, nurturing songs with titles like "White Buffalo Woman" and "Song of the Mermaid Queen." Thiel's album, pictured here, can be ordered from the information provided on the Web site.

Visit the For Fun section for a personalized tarot reading or try an Erisian Torot reading. You can also view a drawing and a brief description of the current moon phase. Poetry lovers won't want to miss the Articles section, which features some interesting and creative poems.

Religion & Ethics Forum

America Online: keyword religion

Click on New Age for various discussions about New Age philosophies, music, meditation methods and topics. Go to the Message Forum for information about how to participate in a Native American sweat lodge. Basic questions like "What is New Age?" are also answered. The library contains a diverse array of files to download, from astrology to information about Adam and Eve. Visit the chat room for conversations about various rituals, rites, traditions, issues and concerns.

Society for Paganism & Magic (SPM)

Web: http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/stud_orgs/spm

Visit this Web site for information about the Society for Paganism & Magic, a club that plans to expand and share knowledge about various pagan and magical beliefs.

Spirit Web

Web: <http://zeta.cs.adfa.oz.au/Spirit.html>

This Web site provides everything you ever wanted to know about healing methods, UFO phenomena, out-of-body experiences, channeling and dharma. Also enjoy the online movies, music reviews, sound clips, printed journals and e-zines.

talk.religion.newage

Usenet: talk.religion.newage

Have you ever wondered what your name means in spiritual terms? If so, post an inquiry to this newsgroup where someone is sure to respond with good information or advice. Opinions, theories, debates and beliefs are shared in this newsgroup. The latest books and authors are often discussed as well.

Tarot Reading

Web: <http://cad.ucla.edu/repository/useful/tarot.html>

If you are interested in tarot card readings, don't miss this site. Visitors can choose between a short personal-

ized reading or a full Keltic reading. The tarot cards are graphically represented, and every card is explained in detail.

Vangelis: The Man and the Music

Web: <http://bau2.uibk.ac.at/perki/Vangelis.html>

This Web site is dedicated to the works of Evangelos O. Papathanassiou, a.k.a Vangelis, a talented musician and composer of electronic music. Visitors will find pictures, sounds and digitized film sequences at this site, as well as interviews with Vangelis.

Whispering Trees

Web: <http://plasma.physics.lehigh.edu:8080/www/wt.html>

An overwhelming amount of information can be found here. Get your fill of meditations, spells, rituals, poems, songs and Keltic mythology. Recipes are offered for May wine, goddess puffs and flying ointment.

Widdershin's Pagan Newspaper

Web: <http://weber.u.washington.edu/~sfpse/widdershins/>

Widdershin's Pagan Newspaper is dedicated to offering a comprehensive view of what is happening in the pagan community. Read the informative articles or peruse the calendar of pagan days and events.

Witches

Web: <http://www.ucmb.ulb.ac.be/~joan/witches/intro.html>

This site is a great resource for anyone interested in witchcraft. Find information about the torture, trials and burning of witches, as well as reference books and vocabulary words about witches and medicine. Use the search tool if you are interested in learning about a certain witch. Just type in the name, place or keyword and a match will be made.

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Tell us what you think about this issue of **ONLINE ACCESS**. We will randomly select 15 respondents to receive the second edition of *The Whole Internet User's Guide & Catalog* by Ed Krol (O'Reilly & Associates, Inc.; \$24.95 retail value). The drawing will be held on September 29, 1995.

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ARTICLE	INTEREST TO YOU			TECHNICAL LEVEL		
	HIGH	MED	LOW	TOO HARD	OK	TOO EASY
New Products and Services, p. 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Update, p. 13	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clipboard, p. 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Events, p. 21	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet Insider, p. 23	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OA10: Advocacy Online, p. 26	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good Things on the Internet, p. 28	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baud Street, p. 31	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strangelove on the Internet, p. 34	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Power User, p. 36	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Launch Pad, p. 38	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20 Great Bulletin Boards All Over the Map, p. 42	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seek Professional Help!, p. 49	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modem Madness, p. 54	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mastering Home Electronics Online, p. 59	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Top Record Companies Follow a New Cyberbeat, p. 63	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous to Your Health?, p. 67	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Editor's Choice, p. 72	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Info MarketPlace, p. 91	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Almanac, p. 96	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Which of the following do you use online? (Select as many as apply.)

- Bulletin boards
- Chat
- Children's programming
- Investing/brokerage
- Newspapers
- Research (business/personal)
- Shopping
- Special interest groups
- E-mail

Check all boxes that apply. (Please include product/service name in space provided.)

1. Do you use Online Services _____ Bulletin Boards the Internet

2. Do you plan to purchase any of the following (please specify brand):

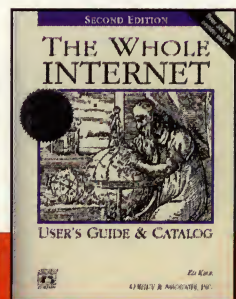
- Personal Computer _____
- Laptop/Notebook PC _____
- CD-ROM _____
- Modem _____

3. Do you own any of the following (please specify brand):

- Personal Computer _____
- Laptop/Notebook PC _____
- CD-ROM _____
- Modem _____

What topics would you like to read about in future issues?

Survey



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August Hot Spots

Zoos, sports, celebrities and travel on this month's 'Net sites.



Photography: Tony Stone Images

Zoo Fun

The first okapi, an animal resembling a cross between a zebra and a giraffe, was brought to the Bronx Zoo from Africa on August 4, 1937. Okapis are rare, even on the Web, but you can find zebras on the Electronic Zoo at <http://netvet.wustl.edu>. To see a movie of giraffes in action, check out the Atlanta Zoo Web page at <http://www.gatech.edu/3020/zoo/home-page.html>.

Match Point

The Davis Cup international tennis team competition was first played on August 8, 1900, in Brookline, Massachusetts. You can find up-to-the-minute coverage of this year's Davis Cup (August 18-24) on CompuServe's spiffy Sports Illustrated Online section (keyword: **sports**).

Baseball Nostalgia

The first color broadcast of baseball was televised on August 11, 1951, when the Brooklyn Dodgers played the Boston Braves. You can learn about more baseball history from Coopers-town's Baseball Hall of Fame Web page at http://www.eneews.com/bas_hall_fame.overview.html. This online brochure provides directions, admission rates, reviews and information about the exhibits at the hall of fame.

Mark of the Vampire

Remember Bela Lugosi, a.k.a. Count Dracula? The Hungarian actor and horror-flick star died a sad, impoverished death on August 16, 1956. He made about 50 films, most of them flops like *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein*, but his *Mark of the Vampire* was one of his better efforts. Check out the Internet Movie Database at <http://www.msstate.edu/Movies/> for more Lugosi movies or search for other films by famous quotes, songs or cast members.

Elvis Lives on the 'Net

Was it only 18 years ago that we lost the King on August 16? Of the several Elvis Web sites, one of the best is the Elvis Home Page (<http://sunsite.unc.edu/elvis/elvishom.html>). Take a virtual tour of Graceland, download a copy of Elvis' last will and testament or check out some Elvis Internet sightings. There are even Space Elvis Chronicles to read and software to download.

The Marx Brothers

In remembrance of Groucho Marx, who died on August 19, 1977, check out Terri's Movie Page (<http://www.best.com/~caddy/movies.html>) for original movie posters of favorite Marx Brothers flicks, such as *A Night at the Opera* and *Cocanuts*. You can download GIF files of the original posters for these and other classics as well as movie facts and memorabilia.

Britain Online

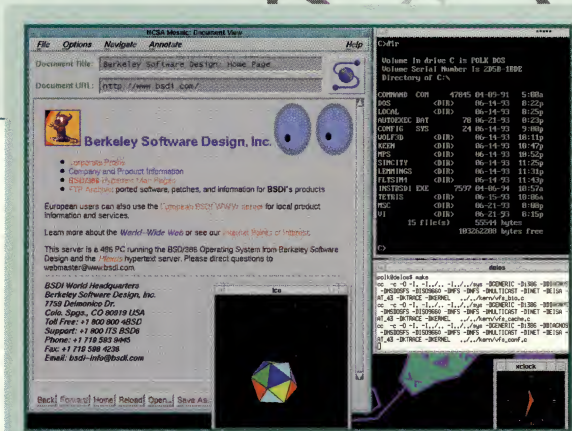
The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) had its first commercial broadcast on August 27, 1932. If you're an international traveler, you'll be amazed at the many countries that broadcast the BBC's high-quality entertainment and 24-hour news. Check out the BBC's colorful home page at <http://www.bbcnc.org.uk/> for worldwide news updates.

Go West!

The first Wild West Show opened on August 28, 1872, in Niagara Falls, New York, with Buffalo Bill and lots of Native American dancing. For information about upcoming tribal dances as well as Native American pottery and jewelry competitions in the United States, try eWorld's Traveler's Edge section (keyword: **travelers**). **OA**

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BBN Internet Server (BSDI Internet Server plus hardware)	7.6
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SCO Global Access	3.5

This product includes software developed by the University of California, Berkeley and its contributors.

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